GONORRHEA IS A VERY COMMON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD). THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT MOST OFTEN IT’S COMPLETELY CURABLE.

THE FACTS
Gonorrhea is a very common sexually transmitted disease (STD). It’s a bacterial infection that can be passed on during unprotected vaginal, oral, and anal sex. People who have gonorrhea often show no symptoms, which is why many spread the infection to their partners without knowing it.

The good news is that most cases of gonorrhea can be easily treated with antibiotics. But if someone with gonorrhea doesn’t get treated, it can cause serious health consequences, like infertility (the inability to have children). That’s why it’s so important to get tested, learn your status, and get treated if you’re infected.

POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS
Most people don’t experience any symptoms when they have gonorrhea, but if you do notice something unusual, your symptoms might include:

- Abnormal discharge from the vagina, penis, or rectum
- Burning when you pee
- Pain or discomfort during sex
- Itching, pain, bleeding, or discharge from your rectum
- Painful bowel movements

Women may also experience pain in the belly or back (sometimes with a fever) and bleeding after sex or between periods.

GETTING TREATED
Fortunately, most forms of gonorrhea can be easily treated with antibiotics; however, some forms of drug resistant (incurable) gonorrhea are showing up in the U.S.

It is important to know that someone can become re-infected with gonorrhea. Because of this, it’s important...
that all the sex partners of an infected person get tested
and treated (if they are infected).

People with gonorrhea should not have sex until they - and
their sex partners - finish treatment.

**HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

**Get Educated**

*For vaginal and anal sex:* Learn how to use latex con-
doms the right way, and use them every time. They’re the
only way to prevent STDs during vaginal and anal sex.

*For oral sex:* Use condoms for oral sex on a penis, and
dental dams for oral sex on a vagina or anus.

*For fingering, hand jobs, and other intimate touching:* Wash
your hands with soap and water after touching
your partner’s genitals before touching your own (and
vice versa). To be extra safe, some people choose to use
latex gloves. Find what works for you.

**Get Tested**

Getting tested with your partner and treating any infec-
tion, will keep you safe from the negative consequences
of gonorrhea.

**Be Smart**

Have sex with only one partner, who has been tested and
is not infected, and who is only having sex with you.

**Stay Clear**

Avoid drinking alcohol and doing drugs before you have
sex. It’s difficult to make good decisions when under the
influence.

**WHAT DOESN’T WORK**

- “Pulling out” before a man ejaculates into the vagina
  or anus
- Birth control (it only reduces risk for pregnancy
- Washing your genitals, peeing, or douching after sex

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For additional information about gonorrhea and other
STDs visit:

- www.itsyoursexlife.com/gyt/known
- www.plannedparenthood.org
- www.weRnative.org

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**CONTESTS AND LIFE ADVICE...**

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