

Gonorrhea *Fact Sheet*



What is gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can infect both men and women.

Symptoms

Gonorrhea often doesn't cause symptoms. When symptoms are noticed, they typically occur 1 to 14 days after exposure:

- **Painful urination or increased need to pee**
- **Dull pain in lower abdomen**
- **Vaginal or penile discharge**
- **Painful intercourse**
- **Bleeding between periods and after sex**
- **Testicular pain and swelling**
- **Rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding**

Testing is completed by urine test, vaginal swab, throat swab, or rectal swab.

Prevention

STIs can affect people of any age. **Lower your risk by using barriers every time you have sex** -such as condoms and dental dams. **Know the status of your partner prior to sex.** Having multiple sex partners increases risk. **Pregnant women should receive regular prenatal care including STI testing.**

Reinfection is possible even with previous treatment for gonorrhea.

How is it spread?

Gonorrhea is transmitted through vaginal, anal, or oral sex with an infected partner. Gonorrhea can also be passed from a mom to baby during delivery.

Treatment

Gonorrhea infections are treatable and curable. With antibiotics, most infections resolve within 7-14 days. Left untreated, permanent damage to reproductive organs can occur. Abstain from sexual activity for the first seven days after treatment. **Inform all sex partners within 60 days prior to onset of symptoms or diagnosis** so they can see a provider for treatment.

