



District Health Department #10
Family Planning

Gonorrhoea

What is Gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). It is caused by bacteria that can grow within many of the reproductive tissues of the body. In women, Gonorrhoea can be found in the cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes and urine canal. In men it generally affects their urine canal. The bacteria can also grow within the mouth, throat, eyes and anus.



What are the symptoms of Gonorrhoea?

Many people who are infected with Gonorrhoea show no symptoms at all. 80% of women and 10% of men with Gonorrhoea show no symptoms. If symptoms are present they are often mild or similar to those of other infections such as bladder infection or yeast infection.

- ◆ Women: the initial symptoms may include a painful or burning sensation when urinating, increased vaginal discharge or bleeding between periods. Abdominal pain, painful intercourse, tenderness of the vaginal area and menstrual irregularities are also signs to watch for.
- ◆ Men: symptoms may include a burning sensation when urinating, an urge to urinate more frequently, or abnormal discharge from the penis.



Is Gonorrhoea treatable?

Yes. Gonorrhoea is treated through the use of antibiotics.
Both partners should be treated at the same time in order to avoid re-infection.

What if I don't get treated?

Untreated Gonorrhoea can cause serious health problems in both men and women.

- ◆ Women: untreated Gonorrhoea is a common cause of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). PID can lead to severe, long term pelvic pain, damage to the fallopian tubes and in some cases it can cause women to be unable to get pregnant.
- ◆ Men: untreated Gonorrhoea can lead to a condition known as epididymitis which results in pain in the testicles and can cause a man to be unable to father a child.

How can I prevent Gonorrhoea?

The only 100% sure way to prevent getting any STD, including Gonorrhoea, is to abstain from having sexual intercourse. Other methods that can greatly reduce the risk of being infected are:

- Using a condom during intercourse every time
- Using a barrier for oral sex
- Have routine checkups for sexually transmitted diseases



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For more information please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Gonorrhoea/>