

# Gonorrhea

## 1. What is gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by bacteria (germs). Gonorrhea can be cured with antibiotics. Having gonorrhea can increase your chances of getting HIV.

## 2. How is gonorrhea spread?

You can get gonorrhea by having unprotected vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has gonorrhea. It's passed through contact with semen, vaginal fluids, or discharge. Pregnant women can spread gonorrhea to their newborn(s) during childbirth.

## 3. What are the symptoms of gonorrhea?

Most people with gonorrhea don't have symptoms. If symptoms develop, they usually happen within 2 weeks of being infected.

You may have some of these symptoms:

- Pain or burning when you urinate (pee)
- White, yellow or green discharge from the penis (for men)
- Discharge, itching, soreness or bleeding from the anus (butt)
- More vaginal discharge than normal or bleeding between periods (for women)
- Soreness or redness in the throat (rare)

## 4. How can I get tested?

To get tested for gonorrhea, go to a doctor or health clinic. There are free or low cost, confidential testing sites available around Los Angeles County. Visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/STDclinics.htm> to find a local clinic. If you don't have a regular doctor, call the free STD hotline (800) 758-0880 to find free testing and treatment. Make sure to get your gonorrhea test results and follow your doctor's medical advice.

## 5. How is gonorrhea treated?

Gonorrhea can be treated and cured with two different types of antibiotics taken at the same time. Usually, you will need to get a shot and also swallow pills. It takes 1 week for the medicine to completely cure gonorrhea. Your doctor may give you medicine for your partner called patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT). Make sure both you and your sex partner(s) are treated before having sex again. If gonorrhea isn't treated, it can cause difficulties getting pregnant or painful infection of the testicles.

## 6. How can I prevent this disease?

- Use condoms.
- Limit your sex partners.
- Get tested in all the places (vagina, penis, anus (butt) and throat) you have sex.
- If you are pregnant, seek early prenatal care to prevent health problems for you and your baby.



### Key Points:

- Gonorrhea is very common, especially among people 15-24 years old.
- Most people with gonorrhea don't have symptoms, but they can still spread it.
- Many medicines that used to cure gonorrhea don't work anymore.
- Gonorrhea is treated and cured with 2 antibiotics taken at the same time.
- Use condoms to prevent the spread of gonorrhea.

### For more information:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/GCinfo.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/>