



*“It wasn’t easy hearing about this, but I’m glad I got treated right away.”*

#### Learn more about Gonorrhea:

- Call toll free  
1-800-758-0880
- Or visit  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp)

# Gonorrhea: What You Should Do Now

Your sex partner has gonorrhea (gone-o-RHEE-ah).

This is a curable infection people can get from having sex. You may have gonorrhea, too.

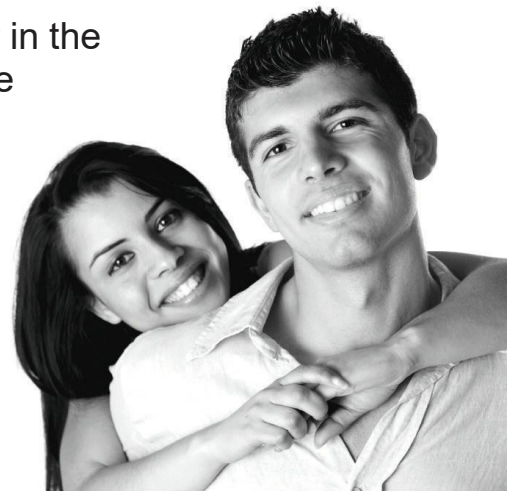
Your partner has taken medication to cure gonorrhea. You must take the same kind of medication as soon as you can.

## Here’s what you need to know:

- Gonorrhea is easy to cure. But both you and your partner(s) must take all the medicine right away.
- You can get gonorrhea by having sex with the penis, vagina, or anus. You can also get it by having oral sex (mouth on penis or vagina).
- Many people have gonorrhea and don’t know it.
- Some people have pain, a burning feeling when you urinate (pee), or a discharge (drip).
- If you don’t get treated, you can get very sick, or you may not be able to have children.
- For women who don’t get treated and later get pregnant, gonorrhea can hurt their babies.

## Get Treated

- The best way to take care of this infection is to go to a clinic right away.
- If you can’t get to a doctor in the next several days, take the medication, or fill the prescription, your partner brought you.
- Because people can have more than one STD at the same time it is important that you visit a clinic as soon as possible to get tested for other STD’s.



Anyone shown in these photos is a model. The photos are used for illustrative purposes only.



## Here's how to take the pills:

You may be given two medications. Take them both.

### **Cefixime (800mg):**

Take all of the medicine at once, as soon as you get it, with a full glass of water.

### **Doxycycline (100mg):**

*(This medication may be provided if chlamydia infection is not ruled out.)*

Take one pill in the morning and one pill at night for 7 days. Take this medicine with food or milk if it upsets your stomach.

- Do NOT take antacids (like Tums or Rolaids) for one hour before or two hours after you take the pills.
- Do NOT share or give these pills to anyone else!
- You can easily be sunburned while on this medication.

Most people do not have problems after they take these pills.

- Some people may feel dizzy or have an upset stomach or diarrhea.
- Some women may have itching and a discharge from the vagina.

These common problems will go away on their own in a couple of days. If they don't, talk to your doctor.

## The pills are very safe for most people.

Talk to your doctor if...

- You have ever had a bad reaction, rash, or allergy to antibiotics.
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart, or liver disease.
- You are currently taking another prescribed medication.
- You know you are pregnant, think you might be pregnant, or plan to become pregnant.

## Get a gonorrhea test now.

- The test doesn't hurt. You only need to urinate (pee) in a cup.
- A swab of the vagina, anus, and/or throat can also be used to test for some STDs. You can use it yourself and send it back to the clinic to get your test results.
- Anyone you've had sex with in the last 60 days should also get tested.
- Get a test in 3 months after taking the medication to make sure you didn't get gonorrhea again.

In these cases, it is important that you talk to your doctor immediately about what you need to do.

If you performed oral sex on someone who was infected with gonorrhea, the medicine may not work as well. You should see a doctor to get stronger medicine.

## How long does it take for the infection to go away?

It takes 7 days for the medication to work.

For 7 days after you take the pills:

- It is best not to have sex at all with the vagina, penis, mouth, or anus.
- However, if you do have sex, you must use a condom or else you will be in danger of getting gonorrhea again or passing the infection on to your partner(s).

## Go to a doctor, clinic, or emergency room right away if you are:

- Wheezing
- Vomiting
- Having trouble breathing
- Have a fever
- Have a rash on part of, or all over your body
- Have one or more painful swollen joints

If you are a man and:

- Have pain or swelling in your testicles (balls).

This may mean you may need stronger medicine. The pills that were given to you may NOT be enough to treat the infection.

## Find a clinic near you:

- Ask your partner where he or she got tested.
- Visit [gettested.cdc.org](http://gettested.cdc.org) or call the CDC hotline at 800-CDC-INFO or 800-232-4636.
- Get tested for other STDs including syphilis and HIV.
- Protect yourself from HIV with PrEP or pre-exposure prophylaxis, a daily pill that helps you stay HIV negative.