

What are Gonorrhea & Chlamydia?



Your sex partner just got treatment for gonorrhea or for both gonorrhea and chlamydia. For your health, you need to get treated too!

Gonorrhea [gon-uh-ree-uh] and chlamydia [kluh-mid-ee-uh] are sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) that you can get from having vaginal, anal or oral sex. Because your partner is infected, there's a good chance that you are too. Many people with an STD do not have signs. This means you can still be infected even if you feel okay.

It's very important that you get treated right away. If gonorrhea and chlamydia aren't treated quickly, they can spread and cause serious damage in the body. In females this includes long term pelvic pain and difficulty getting pregnant. If you are pregnant, gonorrhea or Chlamydia can be passed to your baby and make the baby sick.

The good news is that gonorrhea and chlamydia are easy to treat! **The best way to take care of yourself is to see a doctor right away.** But if you can't get to a doctor within one week of getting this brochure, you can take these medicines instead.

Treatment

To be treated for gonorrhea, with or without chlamydia, you need to take 2 different kinds of antibiotics:

Azithromycin (*Zithromax*) 1g
AND
Cefixime (*Suprax*) 400 mg

Both the medicines are taken by mouth.

These medicines only treat gonorrhea and chlamydia. So, it's important to get tested for other STDs as soon as you can. Having gonorrhea or chlamydia can increase your risk of getting HIV, so make sure that an HIV test is included as part of your STD check-up.

These medicines do not always work if there is a gonorrhea infection in the mouth. If you have given oral sex (had your partner's penis in your mouth) it is best to go to a clinic to get different treatment. If you do take these medicines, go to a clinic in 3 weeks for a test to make sure the infection in your mouth has been cured.

The LA County STD Clinics offer free and confidential testing and treatment. For a clinic near you, call the STD Hotline at 1-800-758-0880 or visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/std

Important Warnings

It's safe for most people to take the pills without seeing a doctor.

DO NOT take these medicines if:

- You have painful swollen joints or body rash
- You have kidney, heart or liver disease
- You've ever had a bad reaction after taking antibiotics
- Females: you have lower belly pain, pain during sex, throwing up, or fever
- Males: you have pain or swelling in the testicles (balls) or fever

If any of the above are true, or if you're not sure, see a doctor right away for treatment. If you don't have a doctor, go to one of the LA County STD clinics for free and confidential testing and treatment.

If you're pregnant or think you might be, this medicine is safe but it's better for you to get a full check-up instead of taking these medicines. If you do take these medicines, see a doctor 3 weeks after taking them to make sure you've been cured.



DO NOT take this medicine if you've ever had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking any antibiotics. People who are allergic to some antibiotics may be allergic to others. If you have allergies to antibiotics, check with your doctor before taking this medicine.

How to Take the Medicine

STOP. Don't take these medicines if you've ever had a bad reaction to antibiotics. See "Important Warnings."

You must take all the medicine to be treated

- Take the medicine with food to avoid an upset stomach.
- DO NOT take antacids (like Tums, Rolaids, or Maalox) 1 hour before or 2 hours after taking the pills. They can keep the medicine from working.
- DO NOT share this medicine or give it to anyone else. If you have other partner(s), tell them you're getting treated so that they can get checked and treated too!

Side Effects

This medicine is very safe and rarely causes problems. If problems do happen, they may include rash, upset stomach, throwing up*, and/or diarrhea. These effects are usually not severe and don't last long.

*If you throw up within 2 hours of taking this medicine, it won't work. Go to a doctor or clinic to get more.

Allergic reactions

Although rare, a severe allergic reaction can include: a hard time breathing/tightness in the chest; closing of your throat; a swollen face, lips or tongue; and/or hives (itchy bumps or welts on your skin). If you have any of these symptoms, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away. After you get treated, report your reaction to the clinic that prescribed the medicine or to the California Department of Health Services, STD Control Branch by e-mail to EPT@cdph.ca.gov or telephone 510-620-3400.

Next Steps

- **Don't have sex until 7 days after you and your partner(s) have taken the medicine** because it takes 7 days for the infections to go away. If you have oral, anal or vaginal sex during this time without a condom, or if the condom breaks, you can pass the infections to your partners.
- **See a doctor for a full STD check-up** as soon as you can.
- **If you have questions about the medicines**, call the clinic or doctor listed on your prescription or medicine label, or call the STD Hotline.
- **If you have other sex partners**, tell them you were exposed to gonorrhea and/or chlamydia.
- **For more information on STDs and tips on talking to partners**, go to www.ashastd.org and www.inspotla.org
- **If you are pregnant and do not have a prenatal doctor**, call 1-877-597-4777 for information about free or low cost prenatal care

For information, free or low-cost testing, and free condoms, call the STD Hotline at:
1-800-758-0880
or visit
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/std

Partner Treatment



Medicine to Treat Gonorrhea or Gonorrhea & Chlamydia

IMPORTANT!
Please read ALL of these
instructions carefully!

