

# Gonorrhea Fact Sheet

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## **What is Gonorrhea?**

Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can infect men and women. Anyone who is sexually active can get gonorrhea. Gonorrhea can cause very serious complications when not treated, but can be cured with the right medication. It can be tested through urine and/or anal, vaginal, and pharyngeal (throat) swabs at the Lenawee County Health Department.

## **How is Gonorrhea Spread?**

Gonorrhea is spread by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who is already infected. Gonorrhea can be spread by a male or female partner, and can also be passed to a baby during childbirth. You can be re-infected with Gonorrhea after you have already had it, even if it was treated.

## **Symptoms of Gonorrhea**

Most people who have gonorrhea do not have any symptoms. If symptoms appear it could take several weeks after having a sexual encounter with an infected partner.

### Symptoms for Females are often mild and mistaken for bladder or vaginal infections:

- Increased vaginal discharge
- A burning sensation when urinating
- Vaginal bleeding between periods

### Symptoms for Males:

- A white, yellow, or green discharge from the penis
- A burning sensation when urinating
- A pain and swelling in one or both testicles (less common)

### Symptoms for Men and Woman that have been infected with gonorrhea in the rectum:

- Pain, soreness, or itching
- Discharge
- Bleeding

In men, gonorrhea can cause painful conditions in the tubes attached to the testicles. In rare cases, this may cause a man to be sterile, or prevent him from being a father to a child.

Rarely, untreated gonorrhea can also spread to your blood or joints. This condition can be life threatening.

## **Reducing the Risk**

If you are sexually active and want to reduce the risk of getting gonorrhea, commit to a long-term mutually monogamous relationship (one person). Talk with your partner and get tested for gonorrhea and other STIs. You should know your partner's STI/HIV status. Correctly **using latex condoms or dental dams** (for oral sex) **every time** can help stop you from getting an STI infection. Also, do not share sex toys. Having one STI increases your risk for getting other STIs.

## **Treating Hepatitis B**

- Visit your local health care provider
- Finish the medication (pills taken orally); take the medication exactly as you are told to
  - ◊ No intercourse until 7 days after treatment is complete. If you choose to have sex, keep in mind that condoms do not completely eliminate the risk of spreading chlamydia
  - ◊ Make sure all partners in the last 60 days are notified and treated
- Do not share medication
- Reinfections are common, so get tested again 3 months after finishing treatment
- If the infection is not treated, it can lead to PID, or pelvic inflammatory disease, which causes abdominal and pelvic pain in women. This can cause long-term pain, inability to have a baby, or an ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).

## **Pregnancy and Gonorrhea**

You can pass this infection to your baby during delivery and cause serious health problems and/or early delivery

More Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/bfaq.htm>



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