

GONORRHEA

FACT SHEET



Whitman County
Public Health

WOMEN

SYMPTOMS

You can get gonorrhea in the anus, eyes, mouth, throat, urinary tract, or uterus. If you do have symptoms, they will vary depending on what part of your body is infected. If you have gonorrhea in the uterus or urinary tract, you might notice these symptoms:

- Vaginal bleeding between your periods.
- Pain or burning when you pass urine.
- Increased vaginal discharge. If you have gonorrhea in the rectum, you might notice these symptoms:

Itching, soreness, bleeding, a discharge from your rectum, or painful bowel movements. If you have gonorrhea in the throat, you might notice that your throat is sore.

TESTING

You should be tested for gonorrhea if you:

- Have any symptoms or a partner who has gonorrhea or symptoms that might be gonorrhea.
- Have another STD, such as chlamydia.
- Are sexually active and younger than 25, You should be tested for gonorrhea every year.
- If you're pregnant. Ask the doctor if you should be tested for gonorrhea.

WITHOUT TREATMENT

- Gonorrhea can spread into the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection that happens when gonorrhea spreads to the reproductive organs.
- PID can also cause damage that makes you unable to get pregnant.
- Untreated gonorrhea may cause chronic pain in your pelvic area.
- If you have untreated gonorrhea, you could pass the infection to your baby when giving birth. Gonorrhea can cause serious health problems for babies.



MEN

SYMPTOMS

You can get gonorrhea in the anus, eyes, mouth, penis, or throat. You may not notice any symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they will vary depending on what part of your body is infected. If you have gonorrhea in the penis, you might notice these symptoms:

- Pain or burning when you pass urine.
- A discharge from your penis.
- Painful or swollen testicles. If you have gonorrhea in the rectum, you might notice:

Itching, soreness, bleeding, a discharge from your rectum, or painful bowel movements. If you have gonorrhea in the throat, you might notice that your throat is sore.

TESTING

You should be tested for gonorrhea if you:

- Have any symptoms or a partner who has gonorrhea or symptoms that might be gonorrhea.
- Have another STD, such as chlamydia.
- Are sexually active and gay, bisexual, or have sex with men, you should be tested for gonorrhea every year.

WITHOUT TREATMENT

You may develop a painful condition in the testicles. In rare cases, this may prevent you from fathering children.



**SCAN THE CODE
TO FIND STI TESTING
CENTERS NEAR YOU.**

Or, go to whitmancountypublichealth.org under Community Health and select the Sexually Transmitted Infections page.

**#GETTESTED
& WEAR PROTECTION**

THE FACTS

Many people who have gonorrhea don't know it, and women often have no symptoms at all.

You can pass gonorrhea to others without knowing it. Gonorrhea can be cured with the right treatment.

If you do not treat gonorrhea, it can lead to serious health problems.

HOW CAN I LOWER MY RISK FOR GONORRHEA?

- The surest way to prevent gonorrhea is not to have sex or to have sex only with someone who's not infected and who has sex only with you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting gonorrhea if used the right way every single time you have sex.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not prevent any STD.

HOW DOES SOMEONE GET GONORRHEA?

- You can get gonorrhea by having sex with someone who has it.
- "Having sex" means having anal, oral, or vaginal sex.
- If you are a pregnant woman with gonorrhea, you can pass the infection to your baby.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I HAVE GONORRHEA?

- Ask a doctor to give you a test for gonorrhea.

IF I HAVE GONORRHEA, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR MY PARTNER?

- Your partner may have gonorrhea, too.
- Tell your recent sex partners so that they can get tested and treated.
- Avoid having sex until seven days after you've both started your treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.

HOW IS GONORRHEA TREATED?

- Gonorrhea can be treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Finish all of the medicine to be sure you are cured. Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
- If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see the doctor.
- You should get tested again about three months after you finish your treatment. This is especially important if you are unsure if your partner was also treated.

CAN I GET GONORRHEA AGAIN AFTER I'VE BEEN TREATED?

- Yes, you can get gonorrhea again. You can get it from an untreated partner or a new partner.

#GETTESTED & WEAR PROTECTION



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