

GONORRHEA

PERSONAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium Neisseria Gonorrhea.

How is Gonorrhea spread?

Gonorrhea is spread through contact with a penis, vagina, mouth, or anus of a person infected with the disease. It can also be spread from an infected mother to her baby during birth.

How is Gonorrhea treated?

Gonorrhea can be treated with antibiotics. It is important to take all medications as prescribed. Persons with gonorrhea should also be tested for other sexually transmitted diseases. All sex partners need to be notified and treated and sexual contact should be avoided until after treatment has been completed by all contacts. Gonorrhea left untreated in women can cause infertility, pelvic inflammatory disease, internal abscesses and chronic pelvic pain. Men may experience epididymitis and infertility. In both men and women, gonorrhea can be spread to the joints and blood which can be life threatening. Gonorrhea in babies can cause blindness, joint or life threatening blood infections. Medication will stop the infection but will not undo the damage that occurred before treatment.

How can we prevent Gonorrhea?

Abstinence from sexual activity is the best form of protection. Being in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and known to be uninfected is another form of prevention.

Many men and most women have no symptoms of Gonorrhea. Some men may experience symptoms 2-5 days (up to 30 days) after infection.

SYMPTOMS OF GONORRHEA

Men may experience:

- burning with urination
- white, yellow, or green discharge from the penis
- painful or swollen testicles

Women may experience:

- painful or burning sensation with urination
- vaginal discharge
- vaginal bleeding between periods

(these symptoms can be mistaken for bladder or vaginal infections)

Symptoms of Rectal

Infections:

- anal itching
- soreness
- bleeding
- painful bowel movements

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