

Fact Sheet

Gonorrhoea

What is Gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a bacteria.

How do you get gonorrhoea?

The infection can be spread through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex. A woman may pass on the infection to her baby during vaginal childbirth.

What are the symptoms of gonorrhoea?

Most people who have gonorrhoea have no symptoms.

In women, signs and symptoms may include:

- fever;
- a burning sensation when peeing;
- abnormal vaginal discharge, or bleeding between their menstrual cycles (periods);
- pain during sex

In men, signs and symptoms may include:

- a burning sensation when peeing;
- a frequent need to pee;
- blood in the pee;
- greenish-, yellowish- or whitish-colored discharge, and redness/ swelling around the opening of the penis; and
- there may be pain and swelling in the area of the testicles.

Individuals (men and women) who participate in oral sex with someone infected with Gonorrhoea may develop a bacterial infection of the throat.

If left untreated, Gonorrhoea can cause serious damage to your health; and could lead to infertility and sterility (unable to have children).

How do you get tested for gonorrhoea?

Testing for gonorrhoea is usually done with a simple urine test. If you think you have been infected with gonorrhoea, visit your Community or Public Health centre and ask the doctor or nurse, to be tested.

How is gonorrhoea treated?

Gonorrhoea can be treated with antibiotics. It is important to receive treatment as early as possible.

What Can You Do?

- Get tested for other STIs, as it is possible to have more than one infection at a time;
- All your sexual partners need to be tested and treated if they have the infection. This will help prevent any long-term problems and reduce the risk of re-infection and reduce the spread of gonorrhoea to others.
- Use a new condom each and every time you have vaginal, oral or anal sex.

Visit (<http://www.irespectmyself.ca>) to learn more about sexual health and relationships.