

Gonorrhea

What You Need to Know

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is an infection you get in your cervix, penis, throat, or anus. At first, you may not feel sick, but later it can cause serious problems.

Some people have no signs or symptoms of the infection.

You may have some of these signs:

- If you are a woman, pain or tenderness in your abdomen
- Pain during sex
- Yellow discharge from your penis or vagina
- Pain when you urinate
- Sore throat

How did I get it?

You got gonorrhea by having sex with someone who had it. You can get it in your throat if you have oral sex with someone who has it. You can't tell by looking at someone if they have gonorrhea. The only way to know you have this infection is to be tested by a health care provider.

What should I do?

Get treated.

Your Family PACT provider will give you a shot or a pill that will cure gonorrhea.

What else do I need to know?

Follow all of your Family PACT provider's instructions.

- You and your sexual partner(s) must get treated. Ask your Family PACT provider how you can get your partner treated.
- Do not have sex while you are being treated.
- If you get a body rash, **call your clinic right away.**
- **If you have problems breathing, call 911.**

Return to the clinic.

- Your Family PACT provider will ask you to come back to the clinic in 3 months to be tested for gonorrhea again.
- Your provider may also want to test you for other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). You can have more than one STD at a time.

Why should I get treated?

Gonorrhea is a serious disease.

- If you don't get treated, you can give it to sexual partners.
- If you are pregnant, gonorrhea could cause your baby to be sick.

If you don't get treated, you may:

- Have an infection of your tubes called Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.
- Be unable to have children later on.
- Have pain in your pelvis during sex for months or years.
- Have pain and swelling in your testicles.

Gonorrhea can also spread to your blood and joints.

Antibiotics will cure gonorrhea and help prevent these problems.

Protect yourself!

- **Tell your partner(s) to get treated for gonorrhea.** If your partner isn't treated, you can get infected again.
- **Do not have sex with anyone** until you and your partner(s) have been treated.
- **Go back to see your Family PACT provider** for another test in 3 months.
- **Always use a male or female condom when you have sex.** Your Family PACT provider can give you condoms and explain how to use them.
- **Ask your Family PACT provider about getting an HIV test.**
- **Ask your provider where you can get vaccines** that help protect against Hepatitis B and HPV infections.

Resources

To learn more about gonorrhea, call the CDC toll-free hotline at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

For information about the Family PACT program and providers near you, call 1-800-942-1054 or visit www.familypact.org.