

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.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET TREATED?

Gonorrhea stays in your body if it is not treated. You may have a higher risk of getting HIV infection if you have unprotected sex with a partner living with HIV. Gonorrhea can also spread to the blood or joints. This condition can be very serious.

IF YOU HAVE A VAGINA

- 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.

IF YOU HAVE A PENIS

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

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

- Your partner(s) may have gonorrhea, too.
- Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated.
- Avoid having sex until you and your partner(s) have finished treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.

a message for everyone PROTECT YOURSELF + YOUR PARTNERS

Always see a provider if you have a partner that is being treated for gonorrhea. Also see the provider if you or your sex partners notice any symptoms, such as an unusual discharge. If you have gonorrhea, you should be tested for other STIs. Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested too. Talk openly and honestly with your partners about gonorrhea and other STIs.



For more information, contact:

MULTNOMAH COUNTY STI CLINIC

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U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



gonorrhea

THE FACTS



THE FACTS

- Gonorrhea (gon a REE a) is a sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- Anyone who is sexually active can get gonorrhea. It is more common among teens and young adults.
- Many people who have gonorrhea don't know it. Especially in people with vaginas, the infection often has no symptoms.
- 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 STI.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET GONORRHEA?

You can get gonorrhea by having sex with someone who has it. "Having sex" means having anal, oral, or vaginal contact.

If you are pregnant and have gonorrhea, you can pass the infection to your baby.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I HAVE GONORRHEA?

Ask a provider to give you a test for gonorrhea.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF GONORRHEA?

IF YOU HAVE A VAGINA

- You can get gonorrhea in the anus, eyes, mouth, throat, urinary tract, or uterus. 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 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.

IF YOU HAVE A PENIS

- 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.

WHEN SHOULD I BE TESTED?

IF YOU HAVE A VAGINA

You should be tested for gonorrhea if you:

- Are younger than 25 and you're having sex.
- Are having sex with more than one partner.
- Are having sex with a new partner.
- Have any symptoms or a partner who has gonorrhea or symptoms that might be gonorrhea.
- Have another STI, such as chlamydia.
- If you're pregnant, ask the provider if you should be tested for gonorrhea.

IF YOU HAVE A PENIS

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 STI, such as chlamydia.
- Are sexually active and gay, bisexual, or have sex with men, you should be tested for gonorrhea every year.

HOW IS GONORRHEA TREATED?

- Gonorrhea can be treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Finish all of the medicine to be sure you are cured.
- Don't share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
- If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see the provider.