

WHAT IS GONORRHEA?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI or STD) caused by bacteria called gonococci. It can be spread to your genitals, anus or throat through sexual contact.

It is a very common STI in the United States. In women, being infected with Gonorrhea just once increases the risk of not being able to have children. If untreated, it can also cause PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease), which is painful and dangerous, tubal (ectopic) pregnancies, stillbirths and premature births.

For both men and women, Gonorrhea can lead to arthritis and heart problems. If you have an STI you must inform anyone you had sex with recently. This can be hard but if you don't they can suffer severe complications or you can reinfect yourself.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Gonorrhea is spread through vaginal, oral and anal sex; it can also be spread to a baby during childbirth.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Gonorrhea doesn't always have symptoms, when it does, they are:

FOR WOMEN:

- ♀ Frequency of burning with peeing.
- ♀ Irregular periods.
- ♀ Pelvic or low abdominal pain especially during sex.
- ♀ Unusual vaginal discharge.
- ♀ Swelling or Tenderness around the vagina.

FOR MEN:

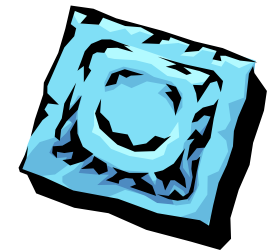
- ♂ Unusual discharge from the penis.
- ♂ Pain while peeing.
- ♂ Testicular pain.
- ♂ Fever.

FOR BOTH WOMEN AND MEN:

- A mild sore throat and swollen glands in your neck.
- Rectal (butt) itching and/or discharge.
- Mucous in your stools (poop).
- Achy, stiff joints.

HOW IS IT PREVENTED?

Since so few people have symptoms, it can be hard to know if you or your partner are infected. Using a condom EVERY TIME YOU HAVE SEX will greatly reduce your chance of becoming infected with Gonorrhea or any other STI. Also, reducing the number of people you have sex with, knowing your partner well and talking with your partner about STIs BEFORE you have sex can help prevent the spread of STIs. Getting yourself and your partner tested regularly will help get you treated early if you do get infected.



HOW DO YOU TEST FOR IT?

The only way to know for sure if you have Gonorrhea is to be tested at a clinic. A urine test is used to test men or a tiny swab may be used to collect a small amount of fluid from vagina, throat or anus. You do not need to have symptoms for the test to be accurate.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

The good news about Gonorrhea is that it is 100% curable with the proper treatment. At the Annex we have different medications to treat Gonorrhea. These cost between \$5.00 and \$20.00. If the infection is really severe, you may have to go to the hospital.

IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE GONORRHEA:

- Make an appointment to get tested and treated as soon as possible.
- Take all the medication given to you. The infection might not go away if you don't.
- Tell your sex partner(s); he or she must be treated even if they do not have symptoms. You can pass the infection back and forth if you are not both treated at the same time.
- Don't have sex for two weeks after treatment. It is easy to pass the infection back and forth during this time. If you must have sex, use a condom.
- LADIES: If you are on birth control pills or the patch, use a back up method while you are being treated.

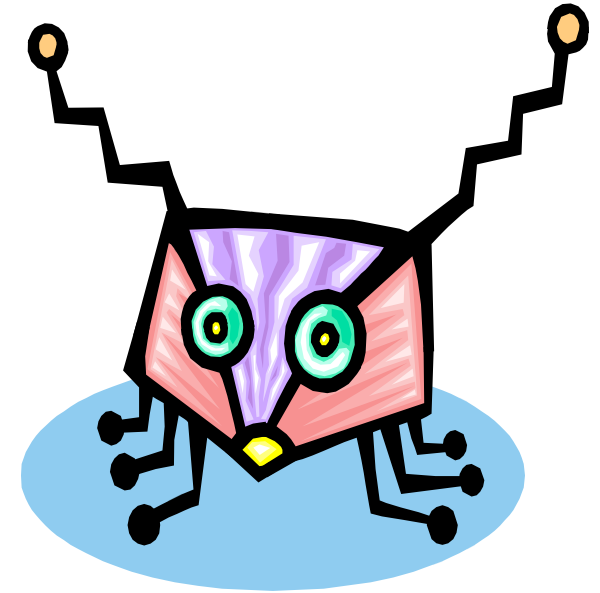
CALL US TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR FOR MORE INFORMATION



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www.annexteenclinic.org

You can also call the MN Family
Planning &
STI hotline at
1-800-78-FACTS
Or
The Nationwide STI Hotline
at 1-800-227-8922

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