



Gonorrhea

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 the 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 vaginal 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. Sex partners should be notified and treated. Sexual contact should be avoided until after treatment has been completed. Gonorrhea left untreated in women can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), internal abscesses, chronic pelvic pain and infertility. Men may experience pain and swelling of the testicles 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 and joint or life threatening blood infections. Medication will stop the infection but will not undo the damage that occurred before treatment.

How can Gonorrhea be prevented?

- No sexual activity is the best form of protection.
- Have sex with only one person who is known to be uninfected and who is only having sex with you.
- Latex condoms, when used correctly and consistently, can reduce the risk of infection.

Symptoms of Gonorrhea:

Many men and most women have no symptoms of gonorrhea. Symptoms would usually appear 2-5 days (up to 30 days) after infection.

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
- Anal discomfort
- Bleeding
- Painful bowel movements

Jackson County Health Department
1715 Lansing Ave.
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 788-4420

www.mijackson.org



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English 1-888-246-2675

Espanol 1-888-246-2857

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