

# GONORRHEA

## What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Gonorrhea is caused by *Neisseria Gonorrhoeae*, a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract, including the cervix, uterus, and fallopian tubes in women, and in the urethra (urine canal) in women and men. The bacterium can also grow in the mouth, throat, eyes, and anus.

## Symptoms of Gonorrhea

Some men may have no symptoms. Symptoms and signs include a burning sensation when urinating or a white, yellow or green discharge from the penis and sometimes painful or swollen testicles.

In women, the symptoms of Gonorrhea are often mild, but most women who are infected have no symptoms. The initial symptoms and signs in women include a painful or burning sensation when urinating, increased vaginal discharge or vaginal bleeding between periods.

Symptoms of rectal infection in both men and women may include discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding or painful bowel movements.

Infections in the throat may cause a sore throat but usually causes no symptoms.

## How do People get Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is spread through contact with the penis, vagina, mouth, or anus. Ejaculation does not have to occur for Gonorrhea to be transmitted or acquired. Gonorrhea can also be spread from mother to baby during delivery.

## Diagnosis and Treatment of Gonorrhea

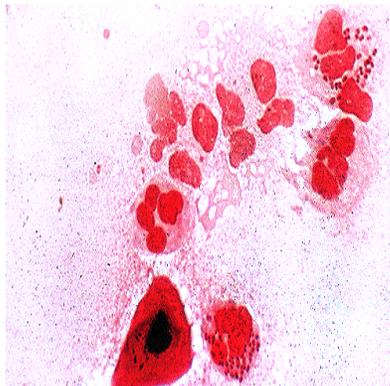
Several laboratory tests are available to diagnose Gonorrhea. A doctor or nurse can obtain a sample for testing from the parts of the body likely to be infected (cervix, urethra, rectum, or throat) and send the sample to a laboratory for analysis.

Several antibiotics can successfully cure Gonorrhea in adolescents and adults. However, drug-resistant strains of Gonorrhea are increasing in many areas of the world, including the United States, and successful treatment of Gonorrhea is becoming more difficult.

## How can I Help Prevent the Spread of Gonorrhea?

The surest way to avoid transmission of STDs is to abstain from sexual intercourse, or to be in a long-term mutually

monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected. Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of transmission of Gonorrhea.



**For more information, contact a Public Health Nurse at the City-County Health Department at 454-6950 or visit [www.cchdmt.org](http://www.cchdmt.org) or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)**