

# Gonorrhea Fact Sheet

## What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* that can be spread between sexual partners through oral, vaginal, or anal sex. This STI is increasingly common among young adults and may present without symptoms. It can infect the urinary tract, the genital area, the mouth, nose, eyes, and the anus in both women and men.

## What are the signs and symptoms?

Some people with gonorrhea may have no symptoms at all. However, those that do have the following:

Women can experience:

- Painful or burning sensation when urinating;
- Increased vaginal discharge;
- Vaginal bleeding between periods.

Men can experience:

- Burning sensation when urinating,
- A white, yellow, or green colored discharge from the penis;
- Painful or swollen testicles (not as common).

## How does it spread?

Gonorrhea easily spreads from person to person by having unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex with someone who has gonorrhea. Individuals who do not have symptoms may still transmit gonorrhea to others. A pregnant woman with gonorrhea can infect her baby during childbirth. Untreated gonorrhea can cause serious and permanent health problems in both women and men.

## How is it treated?

Gonorrhea is typically treated with antibiotics. One is still contagious until treatment is completed. Antibiotics may cure the gonorrhea infection, but it cannot reverse any damage done by the disease. Avoid having sex until treatment is completed, and symptoms have disappeared.

## Prevention:

- Avoid unprotected sexual activities that may put you at risk.
- Use a condom correctly every time you have vaginal or anal sex, and use a dental dam during oral sex.

## For more information:

Visit the CDC here: [Gonorrhea - CDC Resource](#).



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