



## GONORRHOEA

### WHAT IS GONORRHOEA?

- Gonorrhoea (also known as gonno) is a common sexually transmissible infection (STI) caused by a bacteria called *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and can be passed on during sex without a condom.
- Gonorrhoea most commonly infects the urethra (urine passage) and the cervix (neck of the womb) but can also infect the throat and eyes.
- If left untreated, gonorrhoea can cause serious health problems including infections of the skin, joints and the covering of the brain (meningitis).
- If you have a vagina or uterus, untreated gonorrhoea can spread to the uterus and fallopian tubes causing [pelvic inflammatory disease \(PID\)](#) a condition that can lead to complications, including infertility (inability to get pregnant).

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF GONORRHOEA?

If infected with Gonorrhoea you may not notice any symptoms and pass it onto others without knowing it. If you do have symptoms they can occur within 2-10 days after infection.

<p>If you have a vagina, most vaginal infections have no symptoms at all, but if symptoms occur you may notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an unusual vaginal discharge</li> <li>• a burning sensation or pain when passing urine</li> <li>• pelvic pain, especially during vaginal sex</li> <li>• Irregular vaginal discharge</li> </ul>	<p>If you have a penis, you may notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a white, yellow or green discharge from the penis</li> <li>• a burning sensation or pain when passing urine</li> <li>• redness around the opening of the penis</li> <li>• painful and/or swollen testicles</li> </ul>
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- Anal gonorrhoea infection usually does not have any symptoms but if symptoms occur, you may notice anal discharge or discomfort.
- Throat gonorrhoea infection usually does not have any symptoms but if symptoms occur you may notice difficulty swallowing and a sore dry throat.
- Eye gonorrhoea infection symptoms include conjunctivitis and eye inflammation.

### HOW IS GONORRHOEA SPREAD?

- Gonorrhoea is spread by having vaginal, anal or oral sex without a condom or dam with someone who is infected even if there are no symptoms.
- Gonorrhoea can be passed from a mother to their baby.

### WHO IS AT RISK OF GETTING GONORRHOEA?

The people who are most at risk are:

- Anyone who has vaginal, anal or oral sex without a condom or dam with someone who is infected with gonorrhoea



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Gonorrhoea is common in:

- Young sexually active men and women (aged 25–29).
- Anyone who often has different or multiple sexual partners.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Men who have sex with men (MSM), female partners of MSM.
- People with a history of STIs or who are HIV positive, and sex workers.

### HOW CAN I AVOID GETTING GONORRHOEA?

- Using a condom or dam during vaginal, anal or oral sex is the best way to protect yourself from Gonorrhoea.
- Using a condom or dam during sex (practicing Safer sex) reduces the risk of STI transmission.
- It is also important for sexually active people to be tested regularly for STIs to prevent the spread of infection.
- It is recommended you visit your doctor (or a local sexual health service) if you have a new sexual partner, or every 6 months (or more often) if you regularly change sexual partners.

### HOW IS GONORRHOEA DIAGNOSED AND TREATED?

- Gonorrhoea is an easily diagnosed and treated STI. Gonorrhoea is tested by a urine sample or swab from the urethra, cervix, penis, throat or anus.
- The tests usually find gonorrhoea 2 to 4 days after you have come into contact with the infection.
- Gonorrhoea can be treated with antibiotics and symptoms will usually ease within 24 hours after you start them.
- If symptoms do not ease within 7 days it is important to go back to your doctor.
- After being diagnosed with gonorrhoea, you must not have sex (even with a condom or dam) for 7 days after treatment or until symptoms have gone away (whichever is longer) to protect your sexual partner/s.
- Your doctor will talk to you about contacting your sexual partners (this can be done confidentially) to ensure they get tested and treated if necessary.
- You must not have sex with any of your sexual partners if they test positive to Gonorrhoea until 7 days after they are treated.
- This is to make sure that partners are clear of the infection so re-infection does not occur.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I GET GONORRHOEA? / WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE?

- Gonorrhoea is a notifiable condition in Victoria.
- Gippsland Region Public Health Unit will be notified of cases within Gippsland region and this information is confidential and de-identified. Public health staff use this data to better understand who is at risk and help plan activities to prevent new infections in the future.
- Patients and their doctors should ensure that sexual partners who may have been exposed to gonorrhoea are contacted for assessment, counselling and treatment, if needed.



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### Where can I go to get help?

[Sexual and Reproductive Health Services at Latrobe Community Health Service in Morwell](#)

Ph: 1800 242 696

[Clinic 281, Sexual Health and Wellbeing at Gippsland Lakes Complete Health in Bairnsdale](#)

Ph: 5168 9639

[Sexual Health in Practice Service at Yarram and District Health Service in Yarram](#)

Ph: 5182 0222

[Sexual Health in Practice at Grandview Family Clinic in Cowes](#)

Ph: 5951 1860

[1800 My Options](#) for local GP clinics who offer Health services along with options outside Gippsland

### More information:

[Gonorrhoea - Better Health Channel](#)

[Gonorrhoea \(gono\) \(healthtranslations.vic.gov.au\)](#) for information in other languages