

Gonorrhea

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a very common sexually transmitted disease (STD). It is caused by the bacteria *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. Gonorrhea is sometimes called “the clap”. Gonorrhea can infect the vagina, cervix, rectum, penis, urethra, or sometimes the throat. Gonorrhea can be easily cured. Because gonorrhea usually has no signs or symptoms, many people don't realize they are infected.

What are the symptoms of Gonorrhea?

Most women (and some men) who have gonorrhea don't notice anything wrong. If symptoms occur, they usually show up 1-2 weeks after infection. Men may experience symptoms such as discharge from the penis, pain or burning while urinating, itching inside the penis, and painful, swollen testicle. Women may have symptoms such as unusual vaginal discharge, pain or burning while urinating, bleeding between periods or after sex, pain during sex, and stomach pain.

If gonorrhea is in the **throat** or **rectum**, there may be few or no symptoms. Some people feel a sore throat or itching and pain in the rectum.

How is Gonorrhea spread?

Gonorrhea is spread through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex with an infected partner – even if that person has no symptoms. Ejaculation does not have to happen to get gonorrhea. It can also be passed from mother to baby during birth.

How is Gonorrhea treated?

Gonorrhea is usually treated with a single dose of an antibiotic. This can usually be taken by mouth, but sometimes an injection is required. Because gonorrhea and chlamydia often occur together, people with gonorrhea may be treated for both diseases at the same time. Not all antibiotics work against gonorrhea, so your healthcare provider will suggest the best one for you.

Important information about treatment: Take all of the medicine prescribed, even if symptoms go away. **Never treat yourself** with old, leftover antibiotics or other pills from home. **Do not split your own medication** with partners. Some healthcare providers will give extra medication to take home to your partners. Make sure your sex partners get treated too so you don't get infected again. Don't douche or use an enema.

People should not have sex for **7 days** after treatment. Recent or regular sex partners must also be treated before having sex again or they may re-infect one another.

Everyone should get tested again 3 months after treatment to be sure they have not been infected again since being treated.

Where can I get more information? <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Gonorrhea/>
Gonorrhea rates in Asotin County can be found at
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/nc/incidence/gonorrhea.pdf>

