



Where can I get a gonorrhoea test?

You can be tested for gonorrhoea at a sexual health clinic or by your GP. To find your nearest sexual health clinic go to www.tht.org.uk or call THT Direct on 0845 12 21 200 or NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

Treatment

Gonorrhoea can be cured easily with antibiotics. Until the infection is treated and you have taken all the antibiotics, you should avoid sex as you can still pass it on to anyone you have sex with. Your sexual partners will also need to be treated, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not. This is so that they don't give it back to you or pass it on to anybody else. You need to wait until your partner(s) have completed their treatment before starting to have sex with them again.

How can I reduce the risk of getting or passing on gonorrhoea?

The best thing to do is to use condoms for vaginal or anal sex. However there are still risks from other types of sex, eg oral sex. You can reduce the risk from oral sex by using condoms or dental dams.

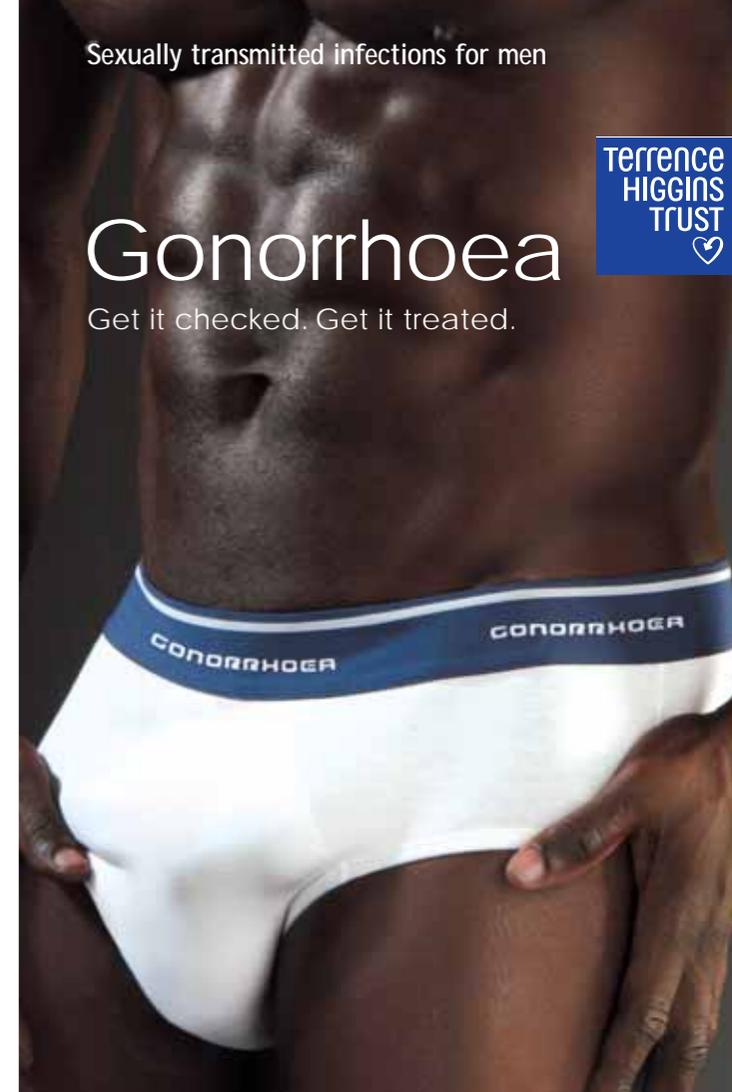
The more sexual partners you have, the more likely it is that you will get gonorrhoea. So it's a good idea to have regular check-ups at your GP or NHS sexual health clinic, even if you don't have any symptoms. Before you stop using condoms with any new partner it is advised that you both go for a sexual health check up.

Sexually transmitted infections for men



Gonorrhoea

Get it checked. Get it treated.



Supported by



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Design Felton Communication 020 7405 0900 Ref: 9865.1

This leaflet on gonorrhoea is one of a series that has been designed to give you essential information on sexually transmitted infections (STIs). It's important that you know about STIs as they are more common than many people think, and some can cause serious health problems if they aren't diagnosed and treated.

Gonorrhoea is a very common sexually transmitted infection in the UK. Young men aged 20 to 24 and women aged 16 to 19 are most at risk, but people of all ages are, and can be, affected. You are more at risk of getting gonorrhoea the more sexual partners you have.

What is gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea is an infection caused by bacteria. These bacteria can live in a man's throat, rectum or urethra (the tube inside your penis that carries urine and sperm out of your body) or in a woman's vagina, throat, or rectum.

Gonorrhoea can be passed on very easily.

It's not common for gonorrhoea to cause serious health problems for men, although the infection can sometimes spread to your testicles or epididymis (which is the tube that carries sperm from the testicles). This can cause swelling and pain. Sometimes, although rarely, it can make you infertile, so you can't have children.

For women, untreated gonorrhoea can cause serious health problems including infertility.

How is gonorrhoea transmitted?

You can become infected with gonorrhoea through vaginal, anal or oral sex if you don't use a condom. You're also at risk of infection if you touch your penis or anus after touching an infected vagina, penis or anus.

How would I know if I had gonorrhoea?

Most men do have some symptoms if the infection is in the penis. But the chances are you won't know if you have gonorrhoea if the infection is in your anus or throat.

Any symptoms you do get will usually appear within 10 days after you've become infected with gonorrhoea. These include:

- unusual whitish/yellowish liquid (discharge) from your penis
- a burning sensation when urinating
- burning or itching at the opening or down the inside of your penis
- discomfort, itching, discharge or bleeding from your rectum
- pain during bowel movements
- occasionally a sore throat.

Gonorrhoea can also cause conjunctivitis or arthritis, although these are rare.

For women the symptoms can include:

- a change in vaginal discharge
- a burning sensation when urinating
- bleeding between periods or after sex
- pelvic pain during sex
- discomfort, itching, discharge or bleeding from the rectum
- pain during bowel movements
- abdominal or pelvic pain
- lower back pain
- occasionally a sore throat.

How is it diagnosed?

After looking for symptoms, the doctor or nurse will take a small sample from the tip of your penis with cotton wool or a swab. They may also take a swab from just inside your anus and/or the back of your throat, depending on the type of sex you've had. Swabs from the throat or rectum don't hurt. A swab from the penis can be quite uncomfortable for a second or two.

Some clinics will ask you to provide a urine sample instead of using swabs.