



## Gonorrhoea: The STI Facts

### What is gonorrhoea?

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*Gonorrhoea is an infection that can be passed from person to person during unprotected vaginal, anal, and oral sex with someone who has the infection.*

Gonorrhoea can infect the throat, anus (bottom), penis, vagina and eyes. Gonorrhoea is sometimes called 'gono' or 'the clap'.

Gonorrhoea is a common sexually transmissible infection (STI) that often has no symptoms. This means you won't know you have it unless you get an STI test. Even without symptoms, it can be passed on.

Without proper treatment, gonorrhoea can sometimes cause serious health problems. These include:

- lower abdominal pain (pelvic inflammatory disease)
- painful swelling of the testicles (balls)
- pregnancy that happens outside the uterus (ectopic pregnancy)
- difficulty getting pregnant (infertility).

### How do you get gonorrhoea?

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Gonorrhoea can be passed on when you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has gonorrhoea. Using protection such as condom and/or dam is a great and effective way to protect you from gonorrhoea.

### How can I protect myself from gonorrhoea?

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- Use condoms during vaginal, oral and anal sex. Condoms will prevent gonorrhoea from being passed on. Make sure you change condoms between partners and when sharing sex toys.
- Use dams during oral sex. Dams will prevent skin to skin contact and prevent gonorrhoea from being passed on.
- If you have gonorrhoea, don't have sex with anyone until seven days after you've started treatment.
- Test for STIs and HIV every 3-12 months. It is important and part of a healthy confident sex life.

### How do I test for gonorrhoea?

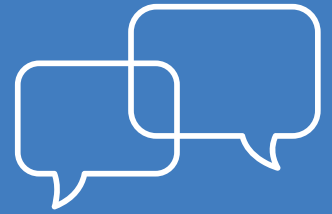
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Gonorrhoea is tested for by a urine sample or a self-collected swab if you have symptoms. Sometimes a throat swab or self-collected anal swab might need to be taken too. It is important not to go to the toilet for 60 minutes before getting an STI test.

You can get a gonorrhoea test at your local doctor, a sexual health clinic and some university health clinics. You can call the [Sexual Health Infolink](tel:1800451624) on 1800 451 624 (free call) to find the closest service to you.

STI tests are easy, confidential and nothing to be ashamed about.

If your test is positive for gonorrhoea, it's important to let your sexual partners know so they can get tested and treated too. If you need help contacting your partners ask your doctor, visit [Let Them Know](http://www.letthemknow.org.au) or call the [Sexual Health Infolink](tel:1800451624) on 1800 451 624 (free call).



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### How do you treat gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea can be treated with antibiotics (an injection and tablet) from your doctor or nurse.

If your test is positive for gonorrhoea, don't have sex with anyone until seven days after you've started treatment, any symptoms you had are gone and your partners have tested negative or being treated too.

It's important to have another test in 3 months after your treatment to make sure you have not been infected again.

### Where can I find more information on gonorrhoea and other STIs?

For information and support about gonorrhoea, other STIs and your sexual health, you can call the [Sexual Health Infolink](tel:1800451624) on 1800 451 624 (free call) to speak to a specialist sexual health nurse. It's free, confidential, and non-judgemental. You can also visit the [International Student Health Hub](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/international-student-health-hub).

If you would like an interpreter to help you access health services or information, please contact the [Translating and Interpreting Service](tel:131450) on 131 450.

Scan the QR code to find out more about gonorrhoea and STIs

