



Gonorrhea: Do You Know the Facts?

Gonorrhea, also known as the “clap” or “drip,” is one of the most common STIs in the United States. It is a bacterial infection. Approximately 75% of all reported cases of gonorrhea are found in people who are 15 to 29 years of age. 80% of women and 10% of men with gonorrhea show no symptoms, so it is important to learn about how it is transmitted and how you can get tested if you think you might be at risk.

Transmission and Protection:

- Gonorrhea is a bacteria transmitted through contact with the penis, vagina, anus, or mouth of an infected individual.
- Gonorrhea cannot be spread by sharing toilets and bathrooms.
- During sexual activity, use barrier protection such as condoms. Condoms are not 100% effective, however.
- Talk to your partner about their sexual history.
- Get tested if you think you may be infected. It's as simple as collecting a urine sample.

Treatment options are limited since gonorrhea has developed resistance to most major classes of antibiotics. The doctor will prescribe antibiotics as either a shot or a pill. Alert any sexual partners so that they can be tested as well. Get tested again if you think you may have been reinfected.

What are the Symptoms?:

- Symptoms usually appear 2-10 days after infection, but could take as long as 30 days.
- Early symptoms in women include vaginal bleeding, burning sensation when urinating, and yellow/bloody vaginal discharge.
- Symptoms in men include discolored pus from the penis, pain, burning sensation during urination, and swollen, painful testicles.
- Remember that...Gonorrhea may cause no symptoms in 80% of women and 10% of men who are infected.
- A doctor can confirm the diagnosis with a urine or discharge sample.

Resources:

Health Center
VA STI Hotline
CDC
Website

(540) 458-8401
(800) 533-4148
(800) CDC-INFO
cdc.gov/STD