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# Gonorrhoea

## Transmission, Symptoms, Treatment, Prevention

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Article appeared in Polare magazine: July 1999 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

Gonorrhoea has many nicknames. 'The Clap', 'A Dip', 'A Dose'. Gonorrhoea bacteria can live on moist, warm parts of the body such as inside the throat, vagina, cervix, penis and anus. It can cause P.I.D. or lead to infertility in both males and females. Gonorrhoea causes an infection in the cervix in females.

***Untreated gonorrhoea left a long time can do serious damage (arthritis, blindness, skin problems and sterility).***

### Transmission:

Any sexually active person can be infected with gonorrhoea. Most often, gonorrhoea is found in younger people (aged fifteen to thirty) who have multiple sex partners through oral, vaginal or anal sex without condoms, sucking and being sucked and rimming. Gonorrhoea can be spread by getting the bacteria on your fingers, then touching other parts of your body.

Rarely it may spread via the bloodstream to cause severe arthritis and other internal infections.

### Signs and Symptoms:

Ten days after the infection: In males, symptoms usually appear two to seven days after infection but it can take as long as thirty days for symptoms to begin. Often, there are no symptoms for people infected with gonorrhoea; 10 to 15 percent of men and about 80 percent of women may have no symptoms.

People with no symptoms are at risk for developing complications to gonorrhoea. These people also spread this infection unknowingly.

**Females:** There is often no sign of infection, but some females may have a green or yellow vaginal discharge, some pain when urinating, low abdominal pain, or irregular menstrual bleeding. Sore throat.

**Males:** In men this infection can cause burning when passing urine and a milky pus-like or yellow discharge from the penis. Some men may have the disease without any symptoms.

A good way to tell if a client has Gonorrhoea is to milk the penis. Gently squeeze the penis along the shaft and if a thick discharge appears then that is a fairly good indication that it may be Gonorrhoea.

### Treatment:

Gonorrhoea is treated with penicillin or other antibiotics in pill form or by injection.

Penicillin Spectinomycin or Ceftriaxone are successful in eliminating this infection.

Untreated gonorrhoea left a long time can do serious damage (arthritis, blindness and sterility). Females frequently suffer from pelvic inflammatory disease (P.I.D.), a painful condition that occurs when the infection spreads throughout the reproductive organs. P.I.D. can lead to sterilisation in females. Males may suffer from swelling of the testicles and penis. Both sexes may suffer from arthritis, skin problems and other organ infections caused by the spread of gonorrhoea within the body.

### Prevention:

A condom, properly worn, is highly effective in preventing infection.

Avoid sex with casual partners and/or reduce your number of partners.

Have an S.T.D. check-up, including gonorrhoea swab tests after sex with a casual partner; immediately if symptoms occur, e.g. discharge, painful urination; or if a sexual partner has gonorrhoea, or symptoms of gonorrhoea.

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Polare Magazine is published quarterly in Australia by The Gender Centre Inc., which is funded by the Department of Family & Community Services under the S.A.A.P. program and supported by the N.S.W. Health Department through the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch. Polare provides a forum for discussion and debate on gender issues. Unsolicited contributions are welcome, the editor reserves the right to edit such contributions without notification. Any submission which appears in Polare may be published on our internet site. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, The Gender Centre Inc., the Department of Family & Community Services or the N.S.W. Department of Health.

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