

GET TESTED!



Can it be treated?

Yes! Gonorrhoea can be treated with antibiotics. The length of the course, type and repetition of treatment will depend on the level and stage of infection.

Get tested!

Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia can have very similar symptoms, but they require different antibiotic treatments, so it is important to get tested and have a definitive diagnosis before beginning treatment.

However, both bacteria can show up in the same test, so your doctor may request for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea at the same time.

The test used is a culture, so it may take a few days to get the results. The sample can be from a swab or urine.

Practicing **SAFE SEX** and getting **REGULAR SCREENING** tests is important to maintain your good health & vitality.



Informing Patients Pamphlet series

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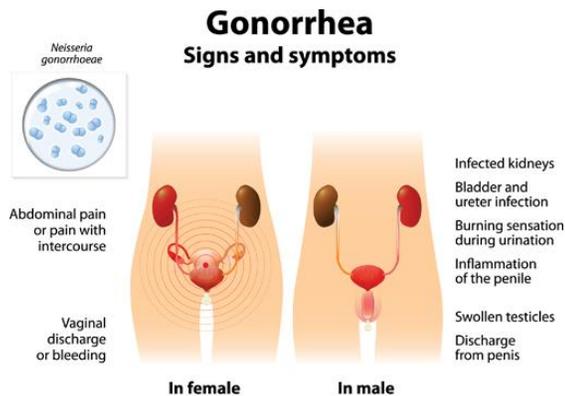
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GONORRHOEA

Gonorrhoea is a bacterial infection caused by Neisseria gonorrhoeae. It is a common sexually transmitted disease that is primarily passed from person to person during sexual contact.

As well as genital gonorrhoea you can also get gonorrhoea of the throat and anus by having anal and oral sex with someone who has the infection.





What is Gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea is another one of those nasty STD's that can cause you quite a lot of discomfort. It is a bacterial infection and it is quite common in Tanzania. It is transmitted during oral, vaginal or anal sex and penetration does not need to happen to spread the infection. Sexual penetration is not necessary as the bacteria are found in mucosal discharge and mucosal surfaces.

Groups who are particularly at risk of getting gonorrhoea include:

- Those with multiple sexual partners
- Sexually active adolescents and young adults
- Children sexually abused by an infected individual
- New borns delivered through the infected birth canal of the mother
- Women during menstruation and pregnancy

"Gonorrhoea can lead to serious health problems for both men and women if left untreated."

What are the complications?

If gonorrhoea is left untreated the following complications may occur:

- Ascending infection in the urogenital tract in men, causing painful inflammation of epididymis and prostate
- Urethral scarring in men – possible decreased fertility or bladder-outlet obstruction
- Scarring of the upper reproductive tract in women with PID – possible infertility, chronic pelvic pain, ectopic pregnancy
- Neonatal infection and miscarriage from gonococcal infection in pregnant women
- Scarring and permanent vision impairment or blindness resulting from conjunctival infection with gonorrhoea
- Gonococcal meningitis
- Arthritis

There are no symptoms at all in 10–15% of men and in up to 80% of women. However, once infected the disease will spread until properly treated. Hence, in many women, Gonorrhoea may have spread to other organs (disseminated gonococcal infection) and caused significant damage due to pelvic inflammatory disease before any signs or symptoms become apparent.

What are the symptoms?

Some people with gonorrhoea do not experience any symptoms and men have symptoms more often than women. These are some common symptoms:

Women

- Discoloured/unusual discharge from vagina
- Stomach pain
- Bleeding between periods
- Pain when urinating
- Discharge or bleeding from the anus
- Lower abdominal pain, which may indicate pelvic inflammatory disease or peritonitis

Men

- White, green, or yellow discharge from the end of the penis
- Irritation of the inside of the penis
- Sore testicles
- Pain when urinating
- Discharge or bleeding from the anus

Pharyngitis (inflammation of the throat) that may cause mild to severe difficulty in swallowing may also occur in men and women with Gonorrhoea. Gonococcal infection can be transmitted by infected fingers to the eyes causing unilateral conjunctivitis with severe inflammation and a yellowish discharge from the eyes.