

# STD Facts

## Gonorrhea (“Clap”) (caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoea*, a bacteria)

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Gonorrhea Symptoms:

- Usually begin 2-7 days after exposure
- May be mild or absent, especially in women

Gonorrhea Symptoms for Women:

- Abnormal vaginal bleeding, discharge or itching
- Burning or pain during urination or bowel movement
- More pain than usual during periods
- Cramps and pain in lower abdomen
- Anal discomfort, itching or discharge

Gonorrhea Symptoms for Men:

- Thick, white or yellow discharge (pus) from penis
- Burning or pain during urination or bowel movement
- Anal discomfort, itching or discharge

### TRANSMISSION

Gonorrhea is Spread by:

- Vaginal sex
- Oral sex
- Anal sex
- Infected mother to newborn

### COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

If Left Untreated, Gonorrhea can:

- Lead to pelvic inflammatory disease
- Lead to ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Lead to infertility in men and women
- Cause infection in the joints
- Spread to other sex partners

Gonorrhea and Pregnancy:

- Infection may be passed to newborn during childbirth
- May cause serious eye infection in newborn
- May infect other organs

### PREVENTION

Recommendations to Reduce the Spread of Gonorrhea:

- Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of transmission of gonorrhea
- Always use latex condoms during vaginal and anal sex
- Use a latex condom for oral sex on a penis
- Use a latex barrier for oral sex on a vagina or anus (dental dam or condom cut in half)
- Limit the number of sex partners
- Notify sex partners immediately if infected
- Make sure partners are tested and treated at same time to prevent reinfection

### TREATMENT

Treatment of Gonorrhea:

- Can be cured with proper medication from a doctor
- Partners should be treated at same time

NOTE: A person can be reinfected after treatment.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines  
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