

## If you think you may have gonorrhoea

You can go to a sexual health clinic for a check up. You can ring for an appointment or sometimes drop in. At the clinic staff may ask you to take a simple test. If you have gonorrhoea you will be given a course of tablets or an injection which will cure it.

For names and addresses of sexual health clinics call:

**Sexwise** 0800 28 29 30

**Sexual Health Information Line** 0800 567 123

**NHS Direct** 0845 4647

Or check out [www.ruthinking.co.uk](http://www.ruthinking.co.uk) and [www.playingsafely.co.uk](http://www.playingsafely.co.uk)

Sexual health clinics are free and confidential. Staff cannot tell anyone you have visited the clinic without your permission unless they believe you or someone else is in serious danger.

Try telling your boyfriend or girlfriend if you think you have gonorrhoea. If you do have gonorrhoea it's very important you tell them so you both get treatment.

## Questions you should ask at the clinic

At the clinic, the staff want to make sure you get the best treatment possible. So when you are at the clinic you should always ask the nurse or doctor:

- 1 – what is wrong with me?**
- 2 – what do I need to do?**
- 3 – why should I do it?**

Their answers will help you to know what to do to get better and stay healthy.

If you want to know more about gonorrhoea or want any further help and advice about sex or sexual health call **Sexwise 0800 28 29 30.**

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You need to know ALL about  
**GONORRHOEA**

Information  
and advice

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## Gonorrhoea is a very common sexually transmitted infection in the UK.

More 16 – 24 years old have gonorrhoea in the UK than any other age group.

Gonorrhoea is easy to catch through having sex.

Gonorrhoea is an infection caused by bacteria. Both men and women can get gonorrhoea.

Gonorrhoea is easy to treat with a course of tablets. It can lead to serious health problems if it is not treated.

## How do you catch gonorrhoea?


You can catch gonorrhoea through having sex with someone who already has gonorrhoea. You can catch it by having unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex (sex without a condom).

You can get more than one sexually transmitted infection at the same time.

## How do I protect myself against gonorrhoea?

Using a condom is the best way to protect yourself against gonorrhoea.

When you use a condom remember to:

- not use a condom that is past its 'use by' date, which is written on the packet
- only use condoms that have this on the side 
- use a new condom each time you have sex
- put a condom on before your genitals (penis and vagina) touch

Condoms come in all shapes and sizes, so find the best one for you. You can get infected with gonorrhoea again, so using a condom will help stop this happening. Condoms can help protect you from most sexually transmitted infections and help avoid pregnancy.

## Gonorrhoea and young women

Women can get gonorrhoea in their vagina, anus (bumhole) and throat. About half of the women who get gonorrhoea will not have any signs or symptoms.

But if you do have gonorrhoea you may get:

- pain when you pass urine or have sex
- pain in your belly
- an unusual green or yellow liquid discharge from your vagina
- soreness or irritation and a discharge from your anus

Gonorrhoea can also infect your fallopian tubes. This can damage them and possibly make you infertile (unable to get pregnant).

## Gonorrhoea and young men

Men can get gonorrhoea in their penis, anus (bumhole) and throat. Some men who have gonorrhoea will not have any signs or symptoms.

But if you do have gonorrhoea you may have:

- pain when you pass urine
- drops of white or yellow/green liquid on the end of your penis or from your anus. This is called a discharge
- itchiness in your anus
- pain or tenderness in your testicles (balls)

Gonorrhoea can also infect your testicles which makes them sore. This can possibly make you infertile (shooting blanks) if it is not treated.

