

### What is gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea is an STI (a sexually transmitted infection) that is very common in people aged less than 25 years. Gonorrhoea is very easy to catch and also very easy to treat. It may cause serious problems if you don't get it treated.

### How do I know if I have gonorrhoea?

#### Symptoms

##### Females

- Women often have no symptoms.
- Sometimes there might be a discharge or fluid leaking from the vagina.
- Sometimes there may be pain when passing urine, bleeding between periods, or tummy pain.
- Sometimes there can be discharge or bleeding from the anus if a person has had anal sex.

##### Males

- Men are more likely to have symptoms.
- There can be discharge or fluid leaking from the penis.
- Or pain when passing urine.
- Sometimes there may be pain or swelling in the testicles.
- Sometimes there can be discharge or bleeding from the anus if a person has had anal sex.

### How does someone get gonorrhoea?

- You get gonorrhoea by having sex or sexual contact with another person with gonorrhoea.
- This includes oral, vaginal or anal sex and sex play.
- If you use a condom every time you have sex you are much less likely to get gonorrhoea.
- Gonorrhoea can also be passed from mother to baby during birth.

### How do I get tested?

You need to see your doctor or nurse or sexual health clinic for a check-up. Take along someone you trust if you want, for support.

- Females will need a swab test from the vagina.
- Males will need a swab test from the urethra (opening in the penis).
- If you have had anal sex or anal sex play you will need a swab from the anus (males and females).

It may be embarrassing, but it is better to get checked than to have untreated gonorrhoea.

### How do I get treated?

You will need an injection and to take some tablets. A single dose of the right treatment usually cures gonorrhoea. You may need to take tablets for up to 2 weeks if the infection is more serious.

#### Important advice

- Finish all the tablets you have been given by the doctor or nurse, even if you feel better.
- You should use a condom for 7 days after treatment, so you don't pass the infection on to someone else.
- You need to tell anyone you have had sex with in the last 2 months to get tested and treated for gonorrhoea.
- You should use condoms or avoid sex for 7 days after you have been treated, so you don't pass the infection on to someone else.
- Also use a condom when you have sex with your partner(s) until 7 days after they have been treated, or you may get gonorrhoea again.
- We recommend you have another sexual health check in 3 months in case you get gonorrhoea again.

#### Important information

- Gonorrhoea is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is **easy to treat** with antibiotics.
- Some people with gonorrhoea **don't notice symptoms**.
- You get gonorrhoea by having sexual contact with another person who has gonorrhoea.
- **Testing:** Females will need a swab from the vagina; males need a urine test and a swab. **Males and females** will need an anal swab if you have had anal sex or anal sex play.
- **You need to tell** anyone you have had sex with in the last 2 months to get tested and treated for gonorrhoea.
- You should **use condoms** or avoid sex for 7 days after you and your partner(s) have been treated so you don't pass the infection on to someone else.

This Patient Information Sheet has been produced by NZSHS. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information in this Patient Information Sheet is correct at the time of publishing (July 2012).