

## INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

# GONORRHOEA

Gonorrhoea is another bacterial infection and makes up around 10% of all the sexually Transmitted Infections diagnosed. It is also one of the infections which has shown an increase in terms of the number of cases found in the last few years.

### How is it caught?

Gonorrhoea is most easily caught through unprotected sex which includes vaginal, anal and oral sex, sharing sex toys and foreplay.

### Will I know if I have it?

Approximately 50% of \*CISfemales and 90% of \*CISmales will experience symptoms so this means most, but not all, will be aware of their infection. Symptoms usually occur within approximately 2 weeks of acquiring the infection, but for some these may not appear for several months.

### Where symptoms do occur then the most common ones are;

- Stinging or burning sensation when urinating
- Thick yellow/green discharge from the Vagina or Penis
- Pelvic pain (CISfemales) or Testicular pain (CISmales)
- Bleeding between periods (CISfemales)

\* - CISmale / CISfemale refers to individuals whose gender identity matches that of their Sex.

<http://sexualhealth.cht.nhs/think-sexual-health>



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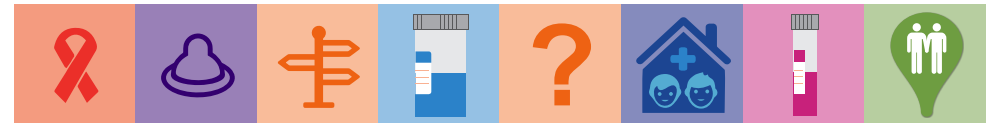
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### Will it have any long term effects?

If Gonorrhoea is left untreated then it can spread through the body and cause long term health problems. This can include;

- Infertility
- Ectopic Pregnancy (Where the egg is doesn't reach the womb and starts to develop in the Fallopian Tube)
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)

It is very important for any infection to be treated during a pregnancy as this infection can increase the risk of miscarriage and lead to the health problems for the baby.

### How can I best protect myself against Gonorrhoea?

Using condoms offers the best protection against infection and regular screening is a good idea. Currently we would recommend getting screened once a year, if someone is sexually active, although this would need to be more frequent depending on how often you change sexual partners.

### Where can I access testing?

The Chlamydia screening programme also checks for Gonorrhoea and provides a convenient way to check whether or not you have picked up an infection. Home screening kits can be ordered through the sexual health webpage, (see address at bottom of screen), or you can call our service on 01422 261370 to make an appointment, or call in to a queue and wait clinic. See our website for details of clinic times.

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms described, shortly after sexual contact then please get in touch.

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Sexual Health Calderdale and Huddersfield is part of the Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

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