Gonorrhea Information Guide:

Symptoms, treatment, and resources

1. What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a very common sexually transmitted disease (STD). You can get Gonorrhea in your vagina, penis, anus or throat. Many people with Gonorrhea don't have any signs or symptoms. When people have symptoms, they can be mild at first. They can show up right away or as long as 30 days after having sex with someone who has Gonorrhea.

You may have of these symptoms:

- Pain or burning when you urinate (pee)
- Fluid from the vagina, penis, or anus that smells or looks strange
- Itching, soreness, or bleeding in the anus or painful bowel movements (poop)
- Fever
- Bleeding from the vagina during or after sex
- Pain or swelling in the testicles

2. Is Gonorrhea a serious disease?

Yes. You must see a doctor if you think you have Gonorrhea.

If you don't get treated, you can:

- Pass Gonorrhea to people you have sex with
- Get other diseases, like HIV more easily
- Spread the disease to your blood and joints
- Have problems getting pregnant
- Have a pregnancy that grows outside of the uterus, which can cause death
- Pass it to your baby during birth
- Have pain in your lower belly (for women) during sex for months or years
- Have pain and swelling in the testicles

3. How does Gonorrhea spread?

You can get Gonorrhea by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has it. Most people don't know they have it because they don't have symptoms. You can't tell if someone has it by looking at them. Getting tested is the only way to find out if you have Gonorrhea.

4. What do I do if I have Gonorrhea?

Follow these 3 important steps to cure Gonorrhea:

1. Take all of the medicine the doctor or nurse gives you. Don't share your medicine with anyone else unless instructed by the doctor or nurse.
2. Make sure your sex partner(s) from the past 2 months get medicine for Gonorrhea as soon as possible.
3. Don't have sex until **7 days** after both you and your sex partner(s) finish the medicine. If you have sex before 7 days, use a condom.

If you don't follow all of these steps, you can get Gonorrhea again, and it can be worse.

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5. What should I know about my treatment?

Don't have sex until 7 days after you and your sex partner(s) finish the medicine.
You have been given the medicine checked below:

☐	**Ceftriaxone:** Given in the clinic by shot
☐	**Cefixime:** Take all of this medicine at once, as soon as you get it

And, you may also be given:

☐	**Azithromycin:** Take all of this medicine at once, as soon as you get it
☐	**Doxycycline:** - Take 1 pill in the morning and 1 pill at night for 7 days - Don't take this medication if you think you may be pregnant or if you are nursing - Take this medicine with food or milk if it upsets your stomach - You can easily be sunburned while on this medication

6. What are the possible side effects of treatment?

Call 911 right away if you are wheezing or have trouble breathing. Call the clinic if you have a skin rash or bumps, itching, or are vomiting (throwing up) non-stop.

7. Does my sexual partner(s) need to get treatment too?

Yes. There are many ways to make sure your sex partner(s) get medicine for Gonorrhea:

- Bring your partner into the clinic with you when you come in for treatment
- Ask the doctor or nurse for extra medicine to take to your partner(s)
- Ask your partner(s) to go to their own doctor to get medicine
- Visit www.inspot.org to send an anonymous email telling your partner(s) they may have Gonorrhea

8. What if I'm pregnant and have Gonorrhea?

If you think you're pregnant, tell the doctor or nurse before you take any medicine. Tell the doctor you're seeing for your pregnancy that you tested positive for Gonorrhea. If you're keeping the pregnancy, you'll need to get tested again in 3 to 4 weeks to make sure you've been cured of Gonorrhea. If you don't get treated, you can pass Gonorrhea to your baby, and it can cause the baby serious eye, joint, or blood infections.

9. Can I get Gonorrhea more than once?

Yes. Having Gonorrhea once won't prevent you from getting it again. Getting infected with Gonorrhea again can cause other infections and be a lot more harmful to your body.
You can get it again if you:

- Have sex with someone who didn't get treated
- Have sex too soon after you and your sex partner(s) finish the medicine
- Have sex with a new partner who has Gonorrhea

Call the STD Hotline for resources and information on low cost testing and condoms: 800-758-0880

Most of the time there are no symptoms when you get Gonorrhea again. Return to the clinic if your symptoms don't go away within a few days. Use a condom every time you have sex, so you don't get it again.

If you had Gonorrhea, you should get tested again in 3 months.

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