



It wasn't easy hearing about this, but I'm glad I got treated right away.

Learn more about gonorrhea:

- Call toll free 1-800-232-4636
- Or visit www.ashastd.org

Gonorrhea:

What You Should Do Now

Your sex partner has gonorrhea (gone-o-RHEE-ah).

This is a curable infection people can get from having sex. You may have gonorrhea, too.

Your partner has taken medication to cure gonorrhea. You should also be seen and tested by a doctor for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and must take a medication to treat gonorrhea as soon as you can.

Here's what you need to know:

- Gonorrhea is easy to cure. But both you and your partner(s) must take the medicine as indicated as soon as possible.
- You can get gonorrhea by having sex with the penis, vagina, or anus. You can also get it by having oral sex (mouth on penis, vagina, or anus).
- Many people have gonorrhea and don't know it.
- Some people have burning with urination (peeing); discharge from the vagina, penis or anus; anal bleeding or pelvic pain.
- If you don't get treated, you can get very sick or you may not be able to have children.
- For people who don't get treated and later get pregnant, gonorrhea can hurt their babies.

Get Treated

Your partner may bring you pills or a prescription to get them. Either way, it is important to take them as indicated as soon as you can.



Here's how to take the pills:

Cefixime (800 mg): Take all of the medicine at once with water, as soon as you get them.

- Do NOT share or give these pills to anyone else.

Most people do not have severe side effects after taking these pills.

- Some people may feel dizzy or have an upset stomach/diarrhea.

These are common problems that will go away on their own in a couple of days. If they don't, talk to your doctor. Also talk to your doctor if you develop itching or discharge from the vagina.

The pills are very safe for most people.

Talk to your doctor before taking the medication if:

- You have ever had a bad reaction, rash, or allergy to antibiotics.
- You have a serious illness such as kidney, heart, or liver disease.
- You are currently taking another prescribed medication.
- You are or may be pregnant.
- You are breastfeeding.

In these cases, it is important to talk to your doctor immediately about what you need to do.

If you performed oral sex on someone who was infected with gonorrhea, the medicine may not work as well. You should see a doctor to get stronger medicine.

How long does it take for the infection to go away?

It takes 7 days. For the week after you take the pills:

- It is best not to have sex at all with the vagina, penis, mouth, or anus.
- If you do have sex, you must use a condom or else you could get gonorrhea again.

Go to a doctor, clinic, or emergency room right away if you:

- Are vomiting (throwing up).
- Have lower belly pain or pain with sex.
- Are wheezing/having trouble breathing.
- Have a rash or fever.
- Have pain or swelling in the testicles (balls).
- Have severe pain in your joints.

This may mean you may need stronger medicine or you are having an allergic reaction to your antibiotic.

Get a gonorrhea test now.

- The test doesn't hurt; you only have to urinate (pee) in a cup. There is also a swab test you can use yourself.
- Anyone you've had sex with in the last 60 days should also get tested.
- If positive, get another test in 3 months to make sure you didn't get gonorrhea again.

Find a clinic near you:

- Ask your partner where they got tested or call the CDC hotline at 800-CDC-INFO or 800-232-4636.
- Get tested for other STIs including syphilis and HIV.
- Protect yourself from HIV with PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), a daily pill that helps you stay HIV negative.