

Where to go

Confidential tests and treatment are available from:

(Most of these services are free. Please telephone first to see if you need an appointment)

Your GP or a doctor of your choice or

Sexual Health Helpline

(08) 9227 6178 or 1800 198 205 toll free
sexhelp@fpwa.org.au

Fremantle Hospital

Infectious Diseases, B2 Clinic
FREMANTLE
(08) 9431 2149

Royal Perth Hospital

Sexual Health Clinic
PERTH
(08) 9224 2178

FPWA-Sexual Health Services
NORTHBRIDGE

(08) 9227 6177 or 1800 198 205 toll free

Quarry Health Centre (For under 25's)

FREMANTLE
(08) 9430 4544

Women's Health Services

NORTHBRIDGE

(09) 9227 8122 or 1800 998 399 toll free

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service

PERTH
(08) 9421 3888

And some regional Population Health
Units and Aboriginal Community Controlled
Health Services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

HealthInfo 1300 135 030

www.population.health.wa.gov.au

Communicable Disease Control Directorate
Department of Health
(08) 9388 4999

Regional Population Health Units
(those in bold provide clinical services)

Albany	(08) 9842 7500
Broome	(08) 9194 1630
Bunbury	(08) 9781 2350
Carnarvon	(08) 9941 0560
Geraldton	(08) 9956 1985
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	(08) 9080 8200
Northam	(08) 9622 4320
South Hedland	(08) 9172 8333



Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program

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GONORRHOEA
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Your
sexual
health

What is Gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea ('the clap') is an infection caused by the *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacteria. You can catch it by having unprotected vaginal, oral or anal sex.

Unless it's found and treated early, gonorrhoea can lead to infertility (so you can't have a baby) in both men and women. In rare cases, the infection can spread to the joints, heart and brain, causing permanent damage or even death.

An infected mother can pass gonorrhoea on to her baby during birth, which can cause blindness.

Signs and symptoms

Most males get a yellow discharge from the penis and a burning sensation when passing urine, within 1 week of getting infected.

Most women have no symptoms at all. Some may notice unusual vaginal discharge or pain when passing urine. If the infection spreads to the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes (which carry eggs to the uterus), it can cause lower belly pain, or pain during vaginal sex.

A sore throat or discharge from the rectum can also be symptoms of gonorrhoea in both men and women, especially after oral or anal sex.

If you have any of these symptoms - or if you are having sex with several people and don't know if they have an infection - visit a doctor as soon as possible and ask for a check-up.

Checking it out

Your doctor will test a sample of urine, and test areas likely to be affected using a swab. The samples will be tested in a laboratory. It's a good idea to have tests for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia, syphilis and HIV at the same time.

If you do have gonorrhoea, all your sex partners will also need to be checked. This is always done carefully, respecting everyone's confidentiality.

Treatment

Gonorrhoea is treated with antibiotics. The treatment varies depending on where you caught the infection: interstate or overseas.

After treatment is finished, you'll need another test to make sure you are cured. Don't have sex, even with a condom, until the treatment is finished and tests show you are cured.

Protecting yourself and your partner

The safest ways to protect against gonorrhoea and other STIs are to:

- Always use condoms. Condoms are the best way of protecting you both against gonorrhoea and other STIs. Always use a condom until you are totally sure that both you and your partner don't have an STI.
- Have a long-term relationship where neither of you is already infected, and neither of you have other partners.

- Limit your sex partners. The fewer people you have sex with, the less chance of having sex with someone who has gonorrhoea.

- Have regular STI check-ups.

Talking about STIs can be difficult, but any person you have sex with has a right to know if you have an STI. Discuss it when you are feeling relaxed and confident, not just before you have sex. Your partner will appreciate your honesty and that you don't want to infect him/her. You have the right to know if they are infected, too.

If you think you might have been exposed to gonorrhoea, have a check-up at a doctor's surgery or at any of the places listed in this pamphlet.

Early treatment will cure the infection and stop it spreading.

Feelings

People who learn they have gonorrhoea sometimes feel guilty, depressed, anxious or angry.

Talk with your doctor, a counsellor or others who have the same problem. Psychologists and counsellors are available at the sexual health clinics. Whatever you say to them will be kept private.