

Gonorrhoea

Am I at risk?

- I have had UNSAFE sex (without a condom, condom not used properly, condom fell off)
- I have a new partner or many partners
- I have discharge, pain or sores in private parts
- I was named as a contact of someone else with an STI
- I can't remember if I had UNSAFE sex (eg if I was drunk)
- my partner or I have ever injected drugs
- I have had contact with someone else's blood (eg getting a tattoo, fighting).

If you said **YES** even once,
or are thinking of having a baby...

Get an STI CHECK!

Condoms Stop STIs from Spreading



- Check date and seal of the packet – old condoms break



- Open the packet carefully (don't use teeth)
- Roll on when the penis is hard



- Pinch the tip so air doesn't get trapped as you roll down



- Put on some water-based lubricant
- Hold the condom on your penis when you pull out, so semen (cum) doesn't spill out
- Throw the condom in the bin – not down the toilet.

Where to get help

See your local health clinic or doctor

Call the **Sexual Health Helpline**

08 9227 6178 (metro)

1800 198 205 (country – free call)

For more information on STIs and HIV,
visit www.population.health.wa.gov.au

Clinic or surgery stamp here:



Department of Health
Government of **Western Australia**

Published by the
Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program, Population Health Division

Department of Health 2004 HP 1818

Thank you to Apunipima Cape York Health Council, the Northern Indigenous Sexual Health Workers Reference Group and Queensland Health for permission to use text from their resources for this pamphlet.

**Our Communities
Our Responsibility**



Duality by Deborah Bonar

What is an STI?

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are caused by germs getting inside you when you have sex with someone who has the infection.

Anyone who has vaginal, anal (bum) or oral (mouth) sex without a condom can get an STI.

You can get private help and treatment if you have an STI.

Gonorrhoea

(Say **Go-no-ree-a**)

Gonorrhoea (also called *gono*, *the clap*, *the drip*) is an STI that can make you sick. It can make you sick even when you don't know you have it.

Many people have no signs of sickness at all.

Men often get yellowish pus coming from their penis and pain when they wee.

Women might feel unwell, get pain in their lower belly or pain during sex, have yellow pus from their vagina, or burning when they wee.

You can't tell if you or another person has gonorrhoea just by looking.



What if I have it?

Gonorrhoea can be found by a urine (wee) test. In women a swab is a better test than urine. The clinic person can show you how to swab yourself if it's easier.

The earlier you find an STI, the easier it is to treat, and the less damage is done to your body.

If you have gonorrhoea, you will get some medicine (antibiotics). You need to take all the medicine to be cured.

Go back to the clinic for another test to make sure you are cured.

People you've had sex with

If you have an STI, it is important to let your sex partner(s) know.

If you want, the clinic can do it for you without telling anyone your name

If you or your sex partners are not treated, you might get that STI again!

What if I don't get treated?

Gonorrhoea germs keep damaging your body until you get treated.

If you don't get treated, you will pass it on to anyone you have sex with.

Even if you have no signs of gonorrhoea, it can still be causing damage on the inside.

This damage can include infections of the reproductive (baby making) parts in men and women. This includes Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) in women. Because of this, men and women who have had gonorrhoea can have trouble making babies.

If a pregnant woman has gonorrhoea and is not treated, the baby can get sickness in the eyes, and even go blind.

Pregnant women need to get a check so gonorrhoea can be treated and their babies don't get it.

How do I stop gonorrhoea?

- Have an STI check if you are at risk (**Am I at risk?** See other side).
- Safe Sex - use condoms and lube **every time** you have sex.
- Stay with one partner.
- Have regular men's and women's health checks.