

Gonorrhea & Chlamydia Post-Treatment Information

Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are two different sexually transmitted infections (STIs) caused by the bacteria *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia can often occur together. Infections can occur in the penis or external genitals, vagina or internal genitals, anus, throat, and eye. The bacteria can also be found in body fluids such as semen, pre-ejaculate, vaginal fluids, and anal fluids.

Both gonorrhea and chlamydia can be cured with antibiotics. They are common STIs in British Columbia.

Treatment

Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are treated with different prescription antibiotics. **It is important to take your medications as directed.** If you miss any doses, the infection may not be cured. See your health care provider if this happens or if you still have symptoms after you finish your treatment.

After Getting Treatment

- It is important to not have sex (even with a condom) for 7 days after the start of your treatment. If you do have sex, you could pass gonorrhea and/or chlamydia to your sexual partner or get it again.
- Your sexual partners within the last two months should be tested and treated for gonorrhea and/or chlamydia. If you haven't had sex in two months, your last partner should be tested and treated. Recent sexual partners should be treated even if they test negative or don't have symptoms because it can take up to 6 weeks to be detected by the test.
- Before having sex with a recent partner, be sure they started treatment at least 7 days ago. If your partner was not treated (even if they tested negative or don't have symptoms), they could still have the infection and can pass it back to you.
- Tell your health care provider if your symptoms (if any) do not go away, if you did not finish your medication, or if you experienced vomiting after taking the medication (in case it did not absorb).
- Retest in 6 months to confirm that there was no re-infection. If you retest sooner, wait at least 4 weeks after completing treatment. This is because dead bacteria may still be detected if you test too soon after treatment. It is sometimes recommended to have a test-of-cure. Talk to your health care provider for their recommendation.

Sexual Partners

Your sexual partners within the last two months should be tested and treated for gonorrhea and/or chlamydia. If you haven't had sex in two months, your last partner should be tested and treated. Recent sexual partners should be treated even if they test negative or don't have symptoms; it can take up to 6 weeks to be detected by the test.

There are a few ways to [tell partners](#). Talk to your health care provider about what is right for you. Some ways to let sexual partners know to get tested and treated:

- Tell your partners in person or over the phone. It can help if you prepare for this conversation. We've developed some [tips to help talk to partners](#).
- Tell your partners with your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can help answer any questions that you or your partners might have.
- A healthcare provider might be able to tell your partners for you. They can inform them they have been exposed to an STI and need to get tested and treated without giving your name. Not all providers offer this.
- Another way to anonymously notify partners is to use an online tool such as checkhimout.ca/tellyourpartners/, or TellYourPartner.org.

Complications

If you treat chlamydia early, there are usually no other health problems. If left untreated, it can lead to serious complications including:

- higher chance of getting and passing HIV
- pelvic inflammatory disease
- epididymitis
- infertility
- ectopic pregnancy
- chronic pelvic pain
- reactive arthritis

If you are pregnant, you should be screened for chlamydia. You can pass chlamydia to your child during birth.

Resources



Chlamydia Information Sheet



Gonorrhea Information Sheet



Clinics & Testing for you and your partners



Tips to help talk to your partners