

Gonorrhoea

Gonorrhoea, sometimes known as 'The clap' is a bacterial infection and therefore is treatable with specific antibiotics.

It affects the urethra (the tube in men and women that carries urine from the bladder to its point of discharge) and the cervix. Under certain circumstances it can also affect the rectum, mouth and throat.

Symptoms can appear within one to two weeks of becoming infected but in some cases the onset of symptoms is delayed for many months. That said, many women, around 50%, and about 10% of men infected with the *Neisseria Gonorrhoea* bacterium show no symptoms at all.

In men the symptoms can include intense pain when having a pee (often described as being like 'peeing razor blades') This is often accompanied by a discharge from the penis

In women, symptoms can include a thick vaginal discharge, pain when passing urine, lower abdominal pain and a change to menstruation.

Gonorrhoea can be passed on via anal intercourse and by oral sex. If your throat is infected you probably won't have any symptoms. This is also true if your rectum is infected, but occasionally it can cause discharge, pain or discomfort.

As with Chlamydia, gonorrhoea can cause serious health and reproductive problems if it isn't treated.

Gonorrhoea can be treated with antibiotics, although Penicillin was the original drug of choice to treat Gonorrhoea, some strains of the bacteria have become resistant to it, requiring the use of other antibiotics.

If left untreated the bacteria can affect the prostate and testicles in men and can cause sterility and long term problems with the urinary tract.

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