

# GONORRHEA IN MALES

## Symptoms

Symptoms usually occur, if at all, 2–7 days after exposure. They include:

- Thick yellow discharge (drip) from the penis
- Burning or pain during urination
- Urge to urinate often

## Cause

Gonorrhea is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases. It is caused by bacteria called *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and is transmitted through sexual intercourse. It starts most often as an infection of the urethra (the tube that urine passes through in the penis).

## Expected Course

The outcome of a gonorrheal infection depends on

- The length of time you have been infected
- The extent of the infection

The number of previous infections you have had

If only the urethra is infected, proper treatment should clear up the infection in 10 days.

Untreated, gonorrhea can lead to scarring of the urethra, inability to urinate normally, and inflammation of the testicles (which can cause sterility).

## Treatment

Three different treatment plans are used for uncomplicated infections:

- 250 mg ceftriaxone given in one injection (shot)
- 2 g spectinomycin in one injection
- If the gonorrhea infection is not resistant to penicillin, six 500-mg tablets of amoxicillin plus two 500-mg tablets probenecid (Benemid), taken at once.

Your treatment is \_\_\_\_\_.

Many men with gonorrhea also have a chlamydia infection, so treatment for gonorrhea also includes one of the following treatments for chlamydia:

- 100-mg tablet doxycycline taken 2 times per day for 7 days
- 500 mg tetracycline taken 4 times per day for 7 days
- 500 mg erythromycin taken 4 times per day for 7 days.

Your treatment is \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Additional Information**

Tell your partner about your infection because she must be treated as well, even if she has no symptoms.

Do not have sex until both you and your partner have finished all the medication. Return to our office about 7 days after completing your medication so we can be sure the infection is gone.

## **Prevention**

Gonorrhea is transmitted sexually. You can help prevent this infection by

- Use of condoms
- Limiting your partners

### **Contact our office if**

- Your symptoms get worse
- You have additional questions or concerns

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