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GONORRHOEA...
ITS TRENDING...

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DID YOU KNOW...?

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- Gonorrhoea is a common Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) and is increasing among young men and women.
- You can have Gonorrhoea and not have any signs or symptoms.
- You can get Gonorrhoea from unprotected sex, including oral sex.
- You can protect yourself and your partner by using condoms every time you have sex, including oral sex.
- STI tests are simple, painless, confidential and free at public STI clinics.
- Untreated Gonorrhoea can sometimes cause serious and permanent health problems in men and women, including infertility.

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WHAT IS GONORRHOEA?

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GONORRHOEA IS A COMMON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI) AND IS INCREASING AMONG YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

Gonorrhoea is a bacterial infection that can be treated and cured with specific antibiotics.

An STI check-up is the best way to find out if you have an infection.

Get a free check-up at your nearest STI Clinic – see www.yoursexualhealth.ie

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WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

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YOU CAN HAVE GONORRHOEA AND NOT HAVE ANY SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS

Signs and symptoms of Gonorrhoea might show between one and 14 days after a sexual contact, such as:

- Yellowish/greenish-white discharge from the penis, vagina and/or anus.
- Itching in the penis, vagina and/or anus.
- Burning or pain when urinating/peeing.
- Soreness or redness in the throat.
- Eye infections such as a discharge or 'red eye'.
- Pain or swelling of the testicles.
- Stomach pains in women.
- You might not have any signs or symptoms.

These signs and symptoms can also be associated with other STIs or infections.

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HOW IS IT PASSED ON?

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YOU CAN GET GONORRHOEA FROM UNPROTECTED SEX, INCLUDING ORAL SEX.

Gonorrhoea can be found inside the penis, rectum, vagina/cervix, the throat and also the eyes.

You can get it through:

- Unprotected vaginal or anal sex [ejaculation does not have to happen].
- Unprotected oral sex [ejaculation does not have to happen].
- Unprotected rimming (mouth to anus contact/oral-anal sex).
- Sharing sex toys or from fingers shared with each other that may have touched an infected area of the body.
- It can be passed from mother to baby during childbirth.

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HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PARTNER?

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USE CONDOMS EVERY TIME YOU HAVE SEX, INCLUDING ORAL SEX.

- Make informed decisions: talk to your partner(s) about STI testing and using condoms.
- Use condoms for anal and vaginal sex.
- Use condoms for oral sex. Try flavoured condoms! (Some flavoured condoms should not be used for penetrative sex so always check the packet for details).
- Use dental dams (a thin sheet of latex that covers the vagina and/or anus) for oral-vaginal sex or oral-anal sex (rimming).
- Do not share sex toys.
- Be careful when using fingers, particularly touching yourself after sexual activity (e.g. scratching your eye or another area of your body).
- Get tested regularly and treated if required – it's free at public STI clinics.

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WHERE CAN I GET TESTED?

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STI TESTS ARE SIMPLE, PAINLESS, CONFIDENTIAL AND FREE AT PUBLIC STI CLINICS.

Tests for Gonorrhoea and other STIs are free at public STI Clinics.

For a list of clinics see www.yoursexualhealth.ie

Gonorrhoea can be tested for with a urine sample, and by taking a swab from the infected area (e.g. throat, vagina/cervix, anus).

You can also avail of private STI testing (for a fee) from your GP, Family Planning Clinics, GP Medical Centres, and in some third-level colleges. The costs for this will vary.

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WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION

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Freephone the Sexual Health Helpline on 1800 459 459 for confidential support and information.

www.yoursexualhealth.ie
for information on free STI testing and safer sex.

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