



ADVICE AND FACTS ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

DET HÄR ÄR EN ÖVERSÄTTNING TILL ENGELSKA AV FAKTABLADET RÅD OCH FAKTA OM SEXUELLT ÖVERFÖRDA INFEKTIONER – MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM.

Mycoplasma genitalium

Mycoplasma genitalium is a bacterium that can be transmitted sexually via vaginal and anal intercourse and during close contact with a mucus membrane, and it can lead to an infection in the genitals. It has symptoms similar to those of chlamydia, but can also be entirely without symptoms. The infection is roughly half as common as chlamydia among patients examined in STI clinics.

Mycoplasma genitalium can be present in the urethra, the vagina and the rectum and can sometimes result in more complicated infections such as salpingitis among women and epididymitis among men. In isolated cases it can result in an eye infection. It is never present in the throat.

Symptoms of mycoplasma

The symptoms are similar to those for chlamydia. *Mycoplasma genitalium* can lead to problems in the urethra for both men and women – a burning sensation when urinating, itching or discomfort in the urethra and sometimes discharges. Women can also have vaginal secretions, bleeding between menstruation and lower abdominal pain. Men can experience epididymitis with swelling and pain in one side of the scrotum.

Testing

Testing for *Mycoplasma genitalium* is recommended only in the event of symptoms and signs of infection. The bacterium will not be detected in tests until at least one week following infection. Men can provide urine samples and women urine samples combined with swabs from the vagina or cervix. Rectal swabs can also be taken if you have had anal sex, and if you have had an eye infection, an eye swab can also be taken.

Treatment

Infection with *Mycoplasma genitalium* is treated with prescription antibiotics. The treatment normally given for chlamydia is not normally effective against *Mycoplasma genitalium*. The treatment is not free as the illness is not covered by the Communicable Diseases Act. It is important that you do not have sex or close mucus membrane contact with another person during the course of the treatment. A diagnostic test can be taken three to four weeks after completion of treatment. If you have residual problems following treatment, you should always have a diagnostic test. Sometimes treatment is ineffective, in which case another antibiotic must be used.

If you have a long-term partner, he or she should also submit samples and receive treatment. You otherwise risk being reinfected after completing your treatment.

Important points about mycoplasma

You can be infected with *Mycoplasma genitalium* several times.

Mycoplasma genitalium has been found in women with pyometra and salpingitis, but this is less common than with a chlamydia infection. The bacterium has also been found in men with epididymitis. As knowledge of this venereal disease is quite new, it is not yet clear as to whether, and if so, to what extent the infection can lead to difficulties having children.

