



ADVICE AND FACTS ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

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

Gonorrhoea

Gonorrhoea is caused by a bacterium that is transmitted through sex and that is normally present in the urethra. The bacterium can also be found in the throat or the rectum of both men and women, and sometimes in the eyes. The bacterium can also be found in the vaginal mucosa.

Gonorrhoea is spread via unprotected vaginal intercourse and unprotected anal sex. The bacterium can also be transmitted via unprotected oral sex. Though it is not common, gonorrhoea can also be transmitted during mutual masturbation via direct contact with an infected mucus membrane. It is enough for the fingers to come in contact with the infected mucus membrane and then infect the healthy mucus membrane. The eyes can also become infected in this way. You can even contract gonorrhoea by sharing sex toys with someone.

Symptoms of gonorrhoea

Gonorrhoea is easily transmitted and does not always produce symptoms. You can transmit the infection to your sexual partner without any symptoms. In the same way, you can contract gonorrhoea from your partner without either of you being aware of it. Gonorrhoea can cause problems, but it will take from two to seven days from infection for you to notice the symptoms. The symptoms are normally in the form of secretions from the urethra, and you may also experience a burning sensation when urinating. If the infection is in the throat or rectum, the symptoms can be mild or even unnoticeable. Sometimes, the infection may also lead to inflammation of the joints.

Get tested for gonorrhoea

Testing for gonorrhoea is free as the illness is covered in the Communicable Diseases Act. To test for the infection, a urine or bacteria sample is taken from the urethra. For women, a cervical swab is also taken. If you have had unprotected oral or anal sex, you should provide swabs from the throat and rectum.

Get tested if you suspect that you have contracted gonorrhoea. However, it can take anything from a number of days up to a week from you being infected to the test showing that you have gonorrhoea. You may therefore need to wait a few days after having unprotected sex before you get tested.

Treatment

Treatment for gonorrhoea is free and the infection is treated with antibiotics. During treatment, it is important that you do not have sex with anyone. You must also provide additional samples once treatment is complete so as to check that the bacteria is gone and be sure that you are cured before having sex again. This is because the bacterium is sometimes resistant and difficult to treat. In such cases, you may need another type of antibiotic. Your sexual partner must also provide samples. If you have several partners, all of them need to be examined and receive treatment if infection is confirmed.

Important points about gonorrhoea

You can get gonorrhoea several times. You can also have complications if the infection is not treated. The risk of complications decreases if you receive treatment quickly. Women can suffer from salpingitis. Men can suffer from epididymitis. If untreated, gonorrhoea can affect your chances of having children as you can become sterile. The bacterium can even reach the bloodstream and thus cause blood poisoning and arthritis, e.g., in the knees.

