

# Health Topics

## GONORRHEA

### Overview

- Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacteria *Neisseria gonorrhoea*.
- It is transmitted during vaginal, anal or oral-genital sexual intercourse and can infect the vagina, cervix, urethra, fallopian tubes, rectum, lining of the eyelid and the throat.
- Untreated gonorrhea can cause chronic infection, which is a risk factor for infertility. The infection can be passed to a baby during pregnancy.

### Signs & Symptoms

- Most people have no symptoms.
- You may experience pain or burning with urination or discharge from the vagina or penis.
- Other symptoms include painful or swollen testicles or vaginal bleeding between menstrual periods or after intercourse.
- Rectal infection symptoms may include discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding, painful bowel movements, or no symptoms.
- Throat infections usually cause no symptoms, but may cause a sore throat.

### Prevention

- Mutually monogamous sexual relationship or abstinence.
- Consistent and correct use of condoms
- Routine screening for high risk, sexually active individuals.

### Treatment

- Gonorrhea can be cured with antibiotics.
- It is important that you take the full course of medication and that your partner(s) be treated at the same time.

### How We Can Help

- You can have routine testing for asymptomatic gonorrhea as part of our “Self-directed STI Testing” program Monday-Friday until 3:30pm, no appointment is necessary. You can pick up the forms for Self-directed STI Testing on the information desk in the lobby and on the ledge across from the laboratory. Fill out the forms and present to the lab in Sierra Clinic (silver hallway). You will be given instructions for collecting a urine

specimen and the results will be sent to you through our confidential & secure email system.

- If you have symptoms of gonorrhea, have been told you have been exposed to gonorrhea or would like to be seen by our medical staff, please contact our Appointment Desk. You can book an appointment [online](#) or by calling our Appointment Desk to [schedule an appointment](#).
- Also, our [Advice Nurse](#) service is free for all UCSB students to discuss health concerns and the options for medical care.
- Condoms are available for purchase at our Pharmacy, which is located in the lobby of UCSB Student Health Service.

### **Recommended Resources**

- [Gonorrhea](#) (WebMD) <http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm>
- [Gonorrhea - CDC Fact Sheet](#) (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention - CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm>
- [Gonorrhea \(Up-To-Date\)](#) <http://www.uptodate.com/contents/gonorrhea-beyond-the-basics>