



# GEORGIAN BAY WOMEN'S CLINIC

## Gonorrhea: What You Should Know

### What's Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria called *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. It can infect anyone and often affects the genitals, rectum, and throat. If left untreated, it can lead to serious health issues.

### What Are the Symptoms?

Many people with gonorrhea don't have any symptoms, so they might not know they have it. But if symptoms do show up, they can include:

#### *For People with Vaginas*

- Increased vaginal discharge
- Burning when you pee
- Vaginal bleeding between periods
- Pain during sex
- Abdominal or pelvic pain

#### *For People with Penises*

- Discharge from the penis (white, yellow, or green)

- Burning when you pee
- Painful or swollen testicles (less common)

### *For Everyone*

- Rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding if it's infected
- Sore throat if the throat is infected

## **How Can You Prevent It?**

**Use Condoms:** Always use condoms during sex. They really help reduce the risk.

**Get Tested Regularly:** Especially if you're under 25 or have new/multiple partners.

## **How Do You Get Tested?**

**Pee in a Cup:** Simple urine test.

**Swab Test:** A swab from your cervix (for people with vaginas) or urethra (for people with penises). Rectal and throat swabs can be done if those areas are affected.

Testing is a good idea every year if you're sexually active and under 25, or if you have risk factors.

## **How Is It Treated?**

**Antibiotics:** Gonorrhea is treated with antibiotics, usually a single injection of ceftriaxone and oral antibiotics.

**Follow Directions:** Take all your meds even if you feel better.

**No Sex:** Avoid sex for 7 days after you finish your treatment to prevent spreading it.

**Tell Your Partners:** They need to get tested and treated too, so you don't pass it back and forth.

## **Follow-Up**

**Re-Test:** Get tested again after 3 months to make sure it's gone, especially if you're pregnant.

**Watch Symptoms:** If symptoms don't go away, check with your care provider.

**Stay Safe:** Keep using protection and getting tested to avoid getting it again.

## **Remember:**

- Gonorrhea often has no symptoms, so regular testing is key!