

## GONORRHOEA

Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmissible infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. Gonorrhoea bacteria can live inside the throat, vagina, cervix, penis and anus.

### Symptoms

Symptoms of Gonorrhoea can occur within 2 to 30 days of sexual contact. Many people, especially women, do not get any symptoms. Men may have a pus-like discharge from the penis and experience pain when they pass urine. Women may have pain in the abdomen and feel unwell.

### Transmission

Gonorrhoea is transmissible during unprotected oral, vaginal or anal sex with an infected partner. Sometimes gonorrhoea can spread into the blood stream to cause severe arthritis and other internal infections. This is very rare.

### Diagnosis

Gonorrhoea is diagnosed by taking swabs from the throat, cervix, penis and anus as appropriate.

### Treatment

Gonorrhoea is treated with antibiotics, which clear the infection. Sexual contacts are treated even if they don't have symptoms. One week after treatment, repeat swabs are taken to ensure that the infection has gone.

### Complications

Gonorrhoea can cause scarring of the fallopian tubes which can increase the risk of ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy occurring in the fallopian tube) and infertility.

Males can develop inflammation of the prostate or epididymis.

Males and females can develop arthritis.

Gonorrhoea can be transmitted from an infected mother to her baby at the time of delivery.

### Prevention

Safer sexual practises, including non-penetrative sexual activity and the use of condoms and dams can prevent transmission of gonorrhoea and other sexually transmissible infections.

Regular sexual health checks for those who have multiple partners is recommended.

### Using a condom

1. Before opening the condom check the condition of the package and the expiry date.
2. Open the condom wrapper and remove the condom carefully. Condoms are strong but fingernails, teeth and jewellery can damage them.
3. Always put the condom on an erect penis before any sexual contact. This will reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmissible infections (STIs).

4. Do not fully unroll the condom before use. Make sure the rim is rolled towards the centre on the side facing you. This is important as it will then roll down easily.
5. Gently hold the tip of the condom between the thumb and forefinger and place the condom over the head of the penis. With your other hand, roll the condom down the length of the erect penis as far as it will go.
6. Carefully apply a generous amount of water-based lubricant before sexual intercourse. This will increase comfort and safety. Do not use oil-based lubricants (such as baby oil) with latex condoms.
7. After ejaculation, while the penis is still erect, hold the base of the condom and withdraw. This prevents any spillage.
8. Point the penis downwards and carefully slip the condom off.
9. Wrap the condom in a tissue and dispose of it thoughtfully and hygienically.



**DO NOT FLUSH IT DOWN THE TOILET IT CAN BLOCK THE DRAINS**

*Sexual Health Service Tasmania is staffed Monday to Friday from 8.30 am until 5.00 pm. Clinic times vary from site to site so please contact your local office for details (see contact details on the back of this pamphlet).*

**Sexual Health Service  
Clinical Services**

**HOBART**

60 Collins Street  
Hobart 7000  
Ph: (03) 6233 3557

**LAUNCESTON**

42 Canning Street  
Launceston 7250  
Ph: (03) 6336 2216

**DEVONPORT**

23 Steele Street  
Devonport 7310  
Ph: (03) 6421 7759

**BURNIE**

11 Jones Street  
BURNIE 7320  
Ph: (03) 6434 6315

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**SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE  
A joint Australian and State  
Government Program**

*The Royal Hobart Hospital is Tasmania's largest hospital and provides a number of state-wide services including cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, burns management, hyperbaric and diving medicine, neonatal intensive care and high-risk obstetrics. It is the major teaching and research hospital for the State and works closely with the University of Tasmania.*

*Many students in the health care professions are taught within the Hospital, and gaining skills in examining and interviewing patients is an important part of their education and training. We ask for your co-operation and encourage you to participate in our teaching and research activities. Your permission is required for participation.*

The Royal Hobart Hospital encourages feedback from patients, relatives and visitors. This feedback helps staff to better understand the needs of patients and provide the best possible patient care.



**The Royal Hobart Hospital  
is a smoke-free site**

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**Information  
Pamphlet**

Sexual  
Health  
SERVICE

**Gonorrhoea**