

WANT THE
FACTS

GONORRHOEA

www.wrappedorraw.org.au

GET IT CHECKED GET IT TREATED

Every two months I go off and get tested. It's not just about monitoring my HIV. It's about, you know, have I picked up any other nasty? Testing for STIs is part of my general healthcare.

About six months ago I had a fuck buddy who was a lot of fun, who was great. I was having great sex with him, but in one of our encounters I contracted a couple of STIs. It's bad enough getting one, but getting two ...

*Now the reality is, if you're HIV positive and get an STI like gonorrhoea, that's going to have a negative impact on your health. **Stuart***

Knowing the facts means you can better protect yourself and your partner and get treated more quickly.

GONORRHOEA

WANT THE FACTS

Gonorrhoea is an infection of your cock (urethra), arse (rectum), throat or eyes caused by the bacteria *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

You can have gonorrhoea and not even know you've got it (particularly if the infection is in your arse or throat). If you don't get treated it can lead to a lot of health problems, especially if you're HIV positive.

It's important to know gonorrhoea is on the increase. Here are some basic facts.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Gonorrhoea is passed on by fucking, arse play (rimming, fingering and fisting) and oral sex. It can also be passed on by touching an infected cock or arse and then touching your own cock, arse or eyes.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE GONORRHOEA?

It is quite common to have no symptoms, especially if the infection is in your rectum or the throat. However, symptoms can include a dry or sore throat, itchiness and pain during bowel movements (shitting), or a clear or yellow discharge from the cock and pain or burning when urinating. Throat infections may also cause discharge however, this is less common.

Symptoms usually take between two and ten days to show up after being exposed.

Gonorrhoea is usually detected by a urine test as well as swabs collected from the arse and throat.

It is preferable not to piss for at least one hour prior to having a urine test.

Get tested at the same time as your regular HIV check-up.

If you have recently had gonorrhoea or Chlamydia it is recommended that you retest in 3 months.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT IT?

Using a condom for anal sex can reduce the risk of passing on or getting gonorrhoea if the infected area (for example cock or anus) is covered. However, condoms may not always cover the infected area so there is a risk of passing on gonorrhoea.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF GONORRHOEA IF YOU'RE ALREADY HIV POSITIVE?

HIV infection may exacerbate some of the symptoms and complications of gonorrhoea. Also, some research has shown gonorrhoea can be more serious and progress faster in HIV positive guys so regular testing is even more important. If left untreated it can seriously damage your health.

Cases of severe arthritis related to gonorrhoea have been reported in people with HIV. There are also reports of keratoconjunctivitis, a severe inflammation of the membrane which covers the eye.

Gonorrhoea infections also increase the amount of HIV in semen. This means that the chance of passing on HIV through unprotected anal sex is greater.

Gonorrhoea may progress more rapidly in positive guys and this makes regular testing even more important.



HOW IS IT TREATED?

Gonorrhoea is easily treated with antibiotics. Sexual contact should be avoided for at least one week to ensure the infection has cleared after treatment.

**The earlier you find out
the easier gonorrhoea
is to treat.**

IF YOU'VE HAD IT ONCE CAN YOU GET IT AGAIN?

Yes. You can be re-infected with gonorrhoea even after you've been treated. Re-infection is very common, especially when a partner is not fully treated.

**Remember you can be
infected over and over
again even after you've
been treated.**

WHERE CAN I GO FOR TESTING AND TREATMENT?

You can ask your GP or HIV doctor for a test when you have your regular blood tests done. If it makes you feel more comfortable you can also go to a Sexual Health Clinic (which is free and you don't have to use your real name).

For more information and a list of clinics visit
www.wrappedorraw.org.au
or call the
Sexual Health Info line
1800 451 624.

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