

## Questions about Gonorrhea or other STDs? Contact:

### ❖ Your Tribal Clinic

- ❖ National STD Hotline - 1-800-227-8922
- ❖ National Indian AIDS Line - 1-800-283-2437
- ❖ Hepatitis Information - 1-800-223-0179
- ❖ National Herpes Hotline - 1-919-361-8488
- ❖ CDC National AIDS Hotline - 1-800-342-AIDS
- ❖ CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse - 1-800-458-5231
- ❖ Alcohol, Drug & Pregnancy Hotline - 1-800-638-BABY
- ❖ Boystown National Youth Hotline - 1-800-448-3000
- ❖ National Gay & Lesbian Youth Hotline - 1-800-676-TEEN

## Quick Quiz!

(answers below)

1. Gonorrhea is caused by a:  
a. Bacteria            b. Virus  
c. Protozoa            d. Fungus
2. True or False: Anyone infected with gonorrhea will get symptoms.
3. True or False: Gonorrhea is curable.
4. True or False: Even if the male doesn't ejaculate, gonorrhea still can be transmitted.
5. What is the only foolproof way to prevent gonorrhea?
6. True or False: Condoms can protect you from gonorrhea.

ANSWERS: 1:A 2:F 3:T 4:T 5:Abstinence  
6:T, if used consistently and correctly



## PROJECT RED TALON

The activities of Project Red Talon are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This project is designed to provide tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington with education, training, and technical assistance for the prevention and treatment of STDs.

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## Sexually Transmitted Diseases

# Gonorrhea

## "Clap" or "The Drip"



## PROJECT RED TALON

*"Respecting Our Bodies and Relationships"*

**Northwest Portland Area  
Indian Health Board**

## What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is an STD caused by the bacteria ***Neisseria gonorrhoeae***. This bacteria can grow and multiply in warm, moist areas like the reproductive tract, mouth, throat, eyes, and anus.



Gonorrhea  
*Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

## Which Parts Of The Reproductive Tract Get Infected?

**Women:** cervix (the opening to the womb), uterus (womb), fallopian tubes, and urethra (urine canal).

**Men:** urethra (urine canal)

### Quick Fact

In 2004, the rate of gonorrhea among American Indians and Alaska Natives was 4 times higher than the rate among whites.

## How Do I Get It?

Gonorrhea is passed from person-to-person during contact with the penis, vagina, mouth, or anus. Ejaculation does NOT have to occur for gonorrhea to be transmitted.

### You CAN get gonorrhea from:

- Vaginal, anal, or oral sex
- Being born to an infected mother

### You CANNOT get gonorrhea from:

- Toilet seats, clothing, doorknobs, etc.
- Swimming pools or hot tubs

## Signs and Symptoms

**Many people do not experience any signs or symptoms.**

### Women:

- Burning sensation when urinating
- Increased vaginal discharge or bleeding between periods

### Men:

- Burning sensation when urinating
- White, yellow, or green discharge from penis
- Painful or swollen testicles



### Rectal Infections (from anal sex)

- May cause no symptoms.
- Discharge from the penis or vagina
- Anal itching, soreness, or bleeding
- Painful bowel movements

### Throat Infections (from oral sex)

- Usually causes no symptoms.
- Sore throat or a dry, scratchy throat.

## Complications of Gonorrhea

### Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) -

Symptoms include abdominal pain and fever. PID can lead to chronic pelvic pain, infertility, or ectopic pregnancy (when a fertilized egg grows outside the uterus). Ectopic pregnancy can be fatal.

**Epididymitis** - Painful condition of the testicles - can lead to infertility.

**Blood and Joints** - Infection of the blood and joints - can be fatal.

**HIV/AIDS** - Gonorrhea makes it 2-5 times easier to get HIV, and easier to transmit HIV on to others.

**Diagnosis** - Laboratory tests can detect the bacteria using a urine test or swab taken from parts of the body likely to be infected (cervix, urethra, rectum, or throat).

**Treatment** - Gonorrhea can be cured with antibiotics.

While antibiotics can stop the infection, they can't repair damage that has already been done. It's important to get treatment as early as possible, and take all the medication that is prescribed to you.

## Reduce Your Risk - What Works:

- ❖ Abstinence.
- ❖ Sticking to one mutually-monogamous partner who has been tested and is uninfected.
- ❖ Good communication between partners about sexual history, including STDs.
- ❖ Latex condoms (used consistently and correctly).
- ❖ Avoiding alcohol and drugs.
- ❖ Combining any of the above.

## What DOESN'T Work:

- ❖ "Pulling out" (removing the penis from the vagina before ejaculation).
- ❖ Birth control (pill, injection, etc.).
- ❖ Washing genitals, urinating, or douching after sex.

**Quick Fact**  
Gonorrhea is most common among 20-24 year olds.