

Gonorrhea



What is it?

- **Gonorrhea**- sexually transmitted disease that infects the inner lining of the cervix, urethra, rectum, and throat or white of the eyes
- **Caused**- by the bacterium Neisseria gonorrhoeae

Signs and Symptoms:

- **Spreads**- through the blood stream to other parts of the body, affects the joints and skin
- **Gonorrhea in Women**- may ascend the genital tract to infect the membranes inside the pelvis causing pelvic pain and reproductive problems, infection begins 7 to 21 days after infection and may have no symptoms for weeks or months may have mild symptoms or
 - **Severe Symptoms**- are seldom but may have a frequent need to urinate, fever, pain while urinating, a discharge from the vagina, during intercourse there may be severe pain to the pelvis and tenderness (the uterus, cervix, ovaries, fallopian tubes, urethra and rectum may all be infected), pus may appear to be coming from the vagina but may be from the urethra, cervix or the glands near the vaginal opening
- **Gonorrhea in Men**- infection in 2 to 7 days with mild discomfort to the urethra, mild to severe pain with urination, discharge of pus from the penis, urgent and frequent need to urinate and worsens, the penile opening becomes red and swollen

Facts:

- **Homosexual Men and Women**- may contract gonorrhea of the rectum (anal sex), anus area becomes raw and red, stool is often coated with pus or mucus
- **Gonorrhea**- may cause discomfort around the anus and a discharge from the rectum
- **Oral Sex**- may result in gonorrhea of the throat/gonococcal pharyngitis, may cause a sore throat and difficulty swallowing or no symptoms



What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- examine the rectum with an anoscope and see pus or mucus on the wall of the rectum