

> Gonorrhoea is an STI that is very common in the Netherlands and often found in men who have sex with men. This STI is caused by bacteria (*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or gonococcus). Untreated gonorrhoea can have serious complications. The infection is easy to treat with antibiotics.

What will you notice if you have gonorrhoea?

The bacteria can cause an infection of:

- the urethra (urine tube)
- the vagina and cervix (entrance to the uterus)
- the anus
- the throat

You may not notice any symptoms of gonorrhoea until days or weeks after becoming infected.

Women

Not all women who have gonorrhoea will notice anything. Symptoms they may notice are:

- Increased vaginal discharge that smells unpleasant or is pus-like
- Bleeding between two periods
- Pain or irritation when passing urine
- Irritation or itching around the anus
- Slimy or pus-like discharge in stools (faeces)
- Sore throat

> An untreated gonorrhoea infection can spread through the body to the fallopian tubes and the lower abdomen. Inflamed fallopian tubes could then get blocked. This gives a greater risk of infertility and a foetus developing outside the uterus (ectopic pregnancy). Pregnant women with untreated gonorrhoea run the risk of a premature birth. The baby can also be infected during the birth and be left with an eye infection.

Men

Most men will realise that they have become infected with gonorrhoea. They can have the following symptoms:

- The 'drip': a small or large amount of pus-like discharge from the urethra that is yellow or green
- Pain or irritation when passing urine
- Irritation or itching around the anus
- Slimy or pus-like discharge in stools (faeces)
- Throat infection or swollen glands in the neck

> An untreated gonorrhoea infection can spread through the body to the prostate gland or inside a testicle.

Treatment for gonorrhoea

Gonorrhoea is easy to treat with an antibiotic injection. Sometimes a second check-up is necessary. Gonorrhoea can be infectious up until a week after treatment so it is not advisable to have sex during that time. Use condoms if you do.

> You will continue to infect other people if the STI is left untreated.

For more information about gonorrhoea,
go to soaaid.nl/en/gonorrhoea

Warning partners

Tell your sexual partner(s) that you have gonorrhoea. If you have symptoms, tell the partners you had in the previous four to six weeks. Otherwise tell your partners from the previous six months. They and their partners can then be tested, even if they have no symptoms. This is not only important for their own health, but also to prevent further spread of gonorrhoea.

- > Is it difficult for you to warn partners yourself? Then ask your local GGD health centre to do it for you. They will be discreet. partnerwaarschuwing.nl is a Dutch website you can use to warn your partners.

AIDS STI helpline

Do you have a question about gonorrhoea that has not been answered in this leaflet?

- > **Call the AIDS STI helpline:** 0900 204 204 0 (10ct per min.)
Monday and Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday to Friday: 2.– 6 p.m.
- > **Send an email to the AIDS STI helpline:**
Sense@soaaid.nl, you will receive an answer within two working days.
- > **Or visit the chat office hour on Soatest.nl**
Monday to Thursday: 1.30 – 3.30 p.m.

1st edition April 2015 | No part of this leaflet may be reproduced without prior permission from Soa Aids Nederland.

Disclaimer

Soa Aids Nederland makes every effort to give complete, clear and reliable information in all educational materials and publications. Soa Aids Nederland does not, however, accept any liability for possible damage resulting from using this leaflet. **The information in this leaflet should never be seen as a substitute for a consultation or personal visit to a doctor or specialist.**