

# MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM

## WHAT IS MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM?

Mycoplasma Genitalium is a bacterium that infects the mucous membranes of the urethra, cervix, throat and anus.

## HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

It is transmitted by vaginal, anal and oral sex.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

### *Men*

Some men will have no symptoms. Those who do may have:

- Inflammation of the urethra (the urine passage);
- Stinging or burning when passing urine;
- A discharge from the penis.

### *Women*

Less is known about Mycoplasma genitalium infection in women. However, Mycoplasma genitalium has been shown to infect the cervix. Women who do have symptoms may have:

- Pain in the pelvic area and pain during sexual intercourse;
- An abnormal vaginal discharge;
- A red, inflamed cervix (cervicitis) on speculum examination.

## HOW LONG UNTIL SYMPTOMS DEVELOP?

Mycoplasma genitalium has recently been identified as a sexually transmitted infection. Symptoms develop in 1 to 3 weeks, although the incubation period has not been established.

## HOW DO YOU TEST FOR MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM?

We test for Mycoplasma genitalium by taking a urine sample or a urethral swab (a sample of secretions) in men. In women a cervical swab of the secretions is taken.

## HOW IS MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM TREATED?

Mycoplasma genitalium is effectively treated using oral antibiotics. A single, oral dose of an antibiotic (Azithromycin) is routinely prescribed.

## WHEN IS IT SAFE TO HAVE SEX AGAIN?

To allow the antibiotics time to work you should not have sex or you should use condoms for one week after finishing treatment.

## DO I NEED FURTHER TESTS AFTER I'VE BEEN TREATED?

Yes. A test of cure one month after treatment is needed to make sure that the antibiotics worked. Very occasionally a second course of antibiotics is required.

## SHOULD MY SEXUAL PARTNERS ALSO BE TREATED?

Yes. It is important to tell all of your recent sexual partners that you have been diagnosed with Mycoplasma genitalium and ask them to be treated. We can assist you doing this by giving you a letter to give to them. Test are only available in some clinics.

If you have difficulty telling your partners, we have a website you can visit [www.letthemknow.org.au](http://www.letthemknow.org.au). As well as general advice and sample conversations it has emails, SMSs and letters you can send to your partners either personally or anonymously.

## HOW DO I AVOID GETTING MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM AGAIN?

Using condoms all of the time, ie: safe sex practices.

This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on Mycoplasma Genitalium. It is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor. All clients are strongly advised to check with their doctor about any specific questions or concerns they may have. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information in this pamphlet is correct at the time of printing.