

Mycoplasma Genitalium

Mycoplasma Genitalium (Mgen, M. Genitalium) is a sexually transmitted infection caused by a bacteria.

Ongoing research shows that some antibiotics don't work to treat Mgen infections, limiting treatment options.

In people with vaginas, Mgen can infect the cervix, uterus and fallopian tubes. In people with penises, Mgen can infect the urethra. Mgen can also infect the rectum (inside bum).

How is Mycoplasma Genitalium transmitted?

Mgen is transmitted through sexual fluids like semen, vaginal or rectal secretions. It's passed from one person to another during oral, vaginal or anal sex or genital touching or rubbing.

What are the signs and symptoms of Mycoplasma Genitalium?

As with many STIs, Mgen may be asymptomatic (showing no symptoms at all), but:

People with vaginas may have

- abnormal discharge from the vagina
- discomfort when peeing
- bleeding between periods, during or after sex.

People with penises may have

- watery discharge from the penis
- burning sensation in the penis when peeing.

Rectal symptoms are largely asymptomatic, but may include rectal pain, discharge or bleeding.

What are the long term effects?

Mgen is an emerging infection and is currently being researched. How Mgen affects the body and its treatment is not yet fully understood.

For people with vaginas, it's possible that the infection may spread into the uterus, fallopian

tubes and ovaries and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can make it harder for people to become pregnant and can cause chronic pelvic pain. Mgen is also associated with preterm delivery (early birth) and miscarriage.

For people with penises, it's possible that symptoms will continue and become more complicated. For example, it may cause swelling in the testes (balls).

How is Mycoplasma Genitalium tested?

Mgen is not tested for during routine sexual health screening. Mgen is only tested for in people with symptoms. The test is a urine sample or vaginal, urethral or anal swab. Another test may also show what antibiotics may be effective. Testing is available at a Sexual Health Centre. If you had sex with someone diagnosed with the



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infection tell the nurse or doctor, so they will provide a test for Mgen.

How is Mycoplasma Genitalium treated?

Mgen should be treated with a long course of antibiotics (1-2 types) depending on the test results. It's important that sex is avoided while you are taking treatment and until a repeat test for Mgen is completed. Retesting at 4 weeks after treatment will check that it's cured.

Should I tell my sexual partners?

Yes, it's important to tell all current or recent sexual partners when a diagnosis of Mgen is given. This is so they can be tested. Treatment will be provided to them based on the test results. Avoid any sex until the results are known.

How can Mycoplasma Genitalium be prevented?

Using condoms will reduce the chance of Mgen infection. Avoid sex with anyone that has been diagnosed with Mgen until after the treatment has been completed and they have been cured.

Contact

To speak with a peer educator:

Email: swopconnect@swop.org.au

Phone: (02) 9206 2166

Freecall: 1800 622 902 (outside Sydney, within NSW)

For more information on Mycoplasma Genitalium, call the Sexual Health Info Line on 1800 451 624.

To anonymously let a sexual partner know that they need to be STI tested, visit <https://letthemknow.org.au/>