GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the bacterium Neisseria gonorrhoeae.

| What is Gonorrhea? | • Common infection among both men and women ages 15-24 years  
• Cause infections in the genitals, rectum, and throat |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| How is Gonorrhea Spread? | • Gonorrhea can be spread through vaginal, anal, or sex with someone who already has gonorrhea  
• Gonorrhea can be passed from pregnant mother to baby during childbirth |
| Signs and Symptoms of Gonorrhea | • Women with symptoms may notice:  
  ○ increased vaginal discharge  
  ○ a painful or burning sensation when urinating  
  ○ vaginal bleeding between periods  
• Men with symptoms may notice:  
  ○ a discharge from their penis  
  ○ a burning sensation when urinating  
  ○ pain and swelling in one or both testicles  
• Rectal infections in both men and women may or may not cause symptoms:  
  ○ discharge, anal itching, soreness  
  ○ bleeding or painful bowel movements |
| How is Gonorrhea Diagnosed? | • Urine test  
• Throat and/or rectal swabs |
| Risk Factors for Gonorrhea | • Anyone who has unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex can get Gonorrhea  
• Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men |
| What Happens if Gonorrhea is Not Treated? | • Infertility  
• Ectopic Pregnancy  
• Long-term pelvic/abdominal pain  
• Scar tissue formation that blocks fallopian tubes |
| How Can Gonorrhea Infection be Avoided? | • Abstinence  
• Use condoms (male and female condoms are available) |

Resources: Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.