

Mycoplasma genitalium

WHAT IS MYCOPLASM GENITALIUM?

Mycoplasma genitalium (Mgen) is a sexually transmitted infection caused by a bacterium called mycoplasma genitalium. The bacterium infects the urethra, cervix and anus.

HOW IS MGEN PASSED ON?

- It is sexually transmitted by unprotected vaginal and anal sex
- The infection is more common in young people, people who frequently change partners and people who do not use a condom during sex
- Even if you have had Mgen before, you can still get re-infected

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF MGEN?

The majority of people with Mgen have no symptoms when they become infected.

The most common symptoms in men are:

- Burning or pain when passing urine
- Discharge
- Discomfort or pain in the testicles
- Proctitis, an inflammation in the rectum causing anal pain and discharge

The most common symptoms in women are:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding e.g. between periods or during or after sex
- Discomfort or pain in the lower abdomen
- Pain during sex
- Burning or pain when passing urine

Mgen can cause non-specific urethritis (NSU) in men and pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women.

HOW IS MGEN DIAGNOSED?

In men, we test a urine sample and in women, we test a vaginal swab. In men, if a discharge is present then we will also take a swab from the penis.

If a test shows you have Mgen then your current sexual partner/s will need to be tested too.

If you have Mgen you should also be tested for other sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea, HIV and syphilis, as you can have more than one infection at the same time.

HOW IS MGEN TREATED?

Mgen is treated with two antibiotics: Doxycycline, which is taken orally twice a day for 7 days followed immediately by Azithromycin, which is taken once a day orally for 3 days according to the schedule below:

Day	Drug Name and Strength	Directions
1	Doxycycline 100mg capsules 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day
2	Doxycycline 100mg capsules 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day
3	Doxycycline 100mg capsules 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day
4	Doxycycline 100mg capsules 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day
5	Doxycycline 100mg capsules 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day
6	Doxycycline 100mg capsules 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day
7	Doxycycline 100mg capsules 12 hours apart	Take ONE capsule TWICE a day
8	Azithromycin 250mg tablets (Totalling 1000mg)	Take FOUR tablets as a SINGLE dose
9	Azithromycin 250mg tablets (Totalling 500mg)	Take TWO tablets ONCE DAILY
10	Azithromycin 250mg tablets (Totalling 500mg)	Take TWO tablets ONCE DAILY

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If you forget to take your medicine, continue the prescribed course as planned as soon as you remember. Do not make up for a missed dose by taking a double dose. It is important to ensure that you complete the course, even if your symptoms go away before you finish it.

If you are taking any other medicines, please ensure you inform the clinician as these antibiotics may affect your other medicines; may reduce the effectiveness of the antibiotics or may make you more prone to experiencing side effects.

If you are pregnant, could be pregnant, or are breast-feeding please tell the clinician before starting this treatment schedule as it may not be suitable for you and you may require an alternative.

Please consult the patient information leaflets supplied with the medicines for more detailed information.

IS A TEST NEEDED AFTER BEING TREATED?

Mgen can be difficult to treat so you should return for a test to check the infection has gone, 5 weeks after you started taking your antibiotics.

WHEN IS IT SAFE TO HAVE SEX AGAIN?

You should avoid any type of sex until 14 days after you started taking your medicine and your symptoms have fully resolved.

Avoid any unprotected sex (no condom used) until after both you and your partner/s have finished treatment and have had a negative Mgen test.

HOW DO I PROTECT MYSELF FROM GETTING MGEN AGAIN?

Protect yourself with new partners by ensuring a condom is used for vaginal, anal and oral sex.

A sexual health screen is recommended if you change partner or have more than one sexual partner.

If you have a concern about any aspect of your care please call **Essex Sexual Health Service Intelligence Centre** central booking number on  **0300 003 1212** to book a review appointment.

Please refer to the Essex Sexual Health Service website for further information including clinic locations and opening times: www.essexsexualhealthservice.org.uk