

Mycoplasma genitalium is a bacterial infection It is transmitted through unprotected sex. Use condoms to prevent Mycoplasma. It can be treated with antibiotics.

Mycoplasma genitalium

What is Mycoplasma genitalium?

- Mycoplasma genitalium is a sexually transmissible infection caused by bacteria. Both men and women can become infected.
- In men, Mycoplasma can infect the inside lining of the penis (urethra).
- In women, Mycoplasma can infect the neck of the womb (cervix) and possibly the womb (uterus) itself and fallopian tubes.
- There is no evidence it can infect the throat of women or men.
- How Mycoplasma affects your body and its treatment is not yet fully understood. Your doctor will have the latest information.

How is it transmitted?

Mycoplasma can be passed from one person to another during vaginal sexual intercourse or foreplay (genital touching or rubbing).

Are there any symptoms?

Men might notice

- Discharge from the penis
- Burning pain or irritation when urinating

Women might notice

- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Pain during sex
- Bleeding after sex and between periods
- Lower pelvic pain

Some women and men may have **NO** symptoms.

How is it diagnosed?

Mycoplasma genitalium can be diagnosed by a urine or swab test collected at a sexual health centre. This test is not yet available through your GP.

How is it treated?

Mycoplasma should be treated with antibiotics. The antibiotics may be a single dose or a longer course. Repeat courses of treatment may be necessary.

It is important that you avoid sex for 7 days after starting treatment. This is to prevent you infecting others or them re-infecting you.

When can I have unprotected sex again?

- A negative test after 1 month indicates you have cleared the infection. Avoid unprotected sex until your repeat test is negative.
- Until this second test is negative, use condoms 100% of the time, or don't have sex at all.
- If the repeat test is positive again, you will need more treatment.
- However, use condoms with all new and casual partners or you can be reinfected with Mycoplasma.

What if Mycoplasma is not treated?

How Mycoplasma affects your body and its treatment is not fully understood. Mycoplasma is being researched and we expect to know more in the future.

Men

It is possible your symptoms will continue and become more complicated. For example, men may develop swollen testicles.

Women

It is possible your symptoms will continue and become more complicated. For example, the infection may spread into the womb, fallopian tubes and ovaries and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can make it harder for some women to become pregnant and can cause chronic pelvic pain.

What about partners?

Current partners should be treated at the same time to prevent reinfection.

All sexual partners of someone with Mycoplasma infection from the past 6 months should have a sexual health check. They should be treated even if they don't have symptoms.

Telling a partner is not always easy. Sexual health counsellors can advise you on the best way to do this.

How do you prevent Mycoplasma infection?

Safe sex practices such as using condoms will reduce the chance of catching Mycoplasma.

For more information contact your doctor or the NSW Sexual Health Infoline freecall 1800 451 624.