

Should I tell my partners if I have tested positive for mycoplasma genitalium?

Yes, all sexual partners from the past six months should be contacted, tested, and treated.

You can do this yourself or there are websites that can help you to do it anonymously.

Your doctor or nurse can help you with this.

How do I avoid getting mycoplasma genitalium?

The best way to prevent mycoplasma genitalium is by using condoms every time you have vaginal or anal sex.

For great tips on using condoms, check out SHFPACT's condom fact sheet.



SHFPACT Clinical Services

- Contraceptive Advice, Information & Services
- IUD's and other Long Acting Contraceptive Options
- Cervical Screening
- Canberra Menopause Centre
- Pregnancy Options Counselling
- Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs):
- Testing, Treatment and Advice
- Blood borne virus and HIV testing
- Emergency Contraception (the 'Morning After' Pill)
- Breast Checks and Breast Awareness Education
- Fertility Issues and Pre-conception Advice
- Sexual Difficulties and Sexuality Education
- PrEP Information, Advice, and Prescription

References: Victorian Sexual Health Network/Stay STI Free <https://www.staystifree.org.au/get-the-facts/mycoplasma-genitalium>
Australian STI Management Guidelines for use in Primary Care: Mycoplasma Genitalium. sti.guidelines.org.au/sexually-transmissible-infections/mycoplasma-genitalium

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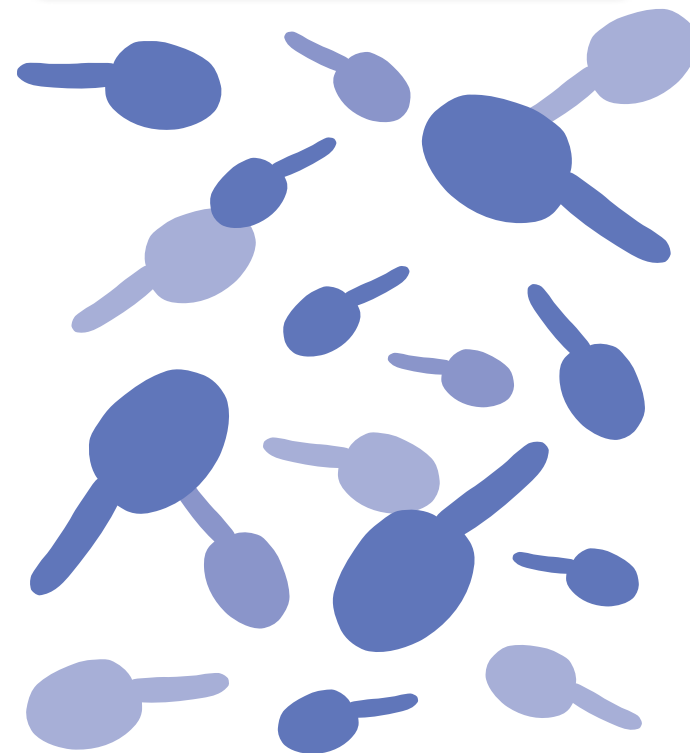
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Mycoplasma Genitalium



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What is Mycoplasma Genitalium?

Mycoplasma genitalium is a bacterium that can cause infection of the cervix, urethra (penis), and anus.

It is a sexually transmissible infection and is like chlamydia, but less common.

How do you get mycoplasma genitalium?

You can get mycoplasma genitalium by having anal or vaginal sex without a condom with someone who has the infection.

Some people may not have any symptoms but can still pass on the infection.

What are the symptoms?

There are often no symptoms with mycoplasma genitalium.

If symptoms do occur, they include:

If you have a vagina:

- Lower abdominal pain or discomfort
- Pain while having sex
- Unusual vaginal bleeding (between periods or after sex)
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Pain or burning passing urine

If you have a penis:

- Discharge from the penis
- Pain or burning passing urine

If you have an anal infection:

- Discharge and bleeding from the anus
- Pain or burning around the anus



When do you test for mycoplasma genitalium?

Testing is only recommended:

- ✓ If you have symptoms such as those listed above and tests for other sexually transmissible infections are negative
- ✓ If you have a current sexual partner who has been diagnosed with mycoplasma genitalium

Routine testing is not recommended if you have no symptoms, unless you have had a sexual partner recently diagnosed with a mycoplasma genitalium infection.



How do you test for mycoplasma genitalium?

- If you have a vagina, the best test is a vaginal swab (you can collect this yourself or a doctor or nurse can collect it for you). Alternatively, you can have a swab from the cervix or do a urine sample.
- If you have a penis, the test is a urine sample.
- If you have a rectal infection, the test is a rectal swab.

How do you treat it?

Mycoplasma genitalium is treated with two courses of antibiotics. This cures most infections.

However, it can be difficult to treat. This is because the antibiotics used do not always work (this is called antibiotic resistance).

If this is the case, you may need to see a medical specialist and have treatment with different antibiotics. Occasionally the different antibiotics do not work, and a cure may not be achievable.

It is important to avoid any sex without a condom until you and your partner have been treated and have both had a negative follow-up test for mycoplasma genitalium.

Do I need a follow-up test after treatment?

You may not need a follow up test if you no longer have any symptoms.

If you still have symptoms 2 to 3 weeks after you have finished treatment, or if there is a high risk that you may have been re-infected with mycoplasma genitalium, a follow-up test may be recommended to make sure that there is no infection present. If the infection is still present, then your doctor will discuss this with you. You may need to see a medical specialist for further management.

What happens if I have symptoms and I don't get treatment?

If you have a vagina, have symptoms and mycoplasma is left untreated, in about 5 % of cases the infection can extend to the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes, causing pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).

Pelvic inflammatory disease can cause infertility.

If infection occurs during pregnancy mycoplasma genitalium can be associated with miscarriage and pre-term delivery.

