

Partner Treatment for Gonorrhea



Why am I getting this medicine (or an extra prescription)?

Your sex partner has Gonorrhea, a disease that is transmitted by having sex, and you need to be treated. A health care provider has given your partner medicine or a prescription to give to you to make sure you get treated.

What if I don't think I have an STD?

Many STDs don't have symptoms. You can have a sexually transmitted disease (STD) like Gonorrhea even if you don't think that anything is wrong. You are getting treatment because you had sex with someone who has Gonorrhea, and you may have it, too.

Is it important to see a doctor?

Yes. We encourage you to see a doctor or nurse or go to the clinic so that you can get checked for other STDs, even if you take this medicine.

What is this medicine?

The medicines you are getting are antibiotics called Cefixime and Azithromycin. These medicines will only cure Gonorrhea and Chlamydia. They will not cure other STDs.

DO NOT TAKE this medicine if:

- You are having lower belly pain, cramps, pain during sex, vomiting/ throwing up, pain in the testicles (balls), or fever.
- You are allergic or have ever had a bad reaction, rash, or allergy to any antibiotics.
- You have any serious health problems like kidney, heart or liver disease, seizures, or are currently taking blood thinners.

If any of the above is true, you should not take this medicine, and you should see a health care provider as soon as possible. Also, if you are allergic to Cefixime or Azithromycin, a health care provider can recommend the best Gonorrhea treatment for you.

How should I take the medicine?

- Take all the pills at one time, by mouth. Do not share the medicine. You need all of it for it to work.
- Take it on an empty stomach (at least one hour before eating or two hours after eating).
- If you throw up in the hour after taking the medicine, you will need to get more medicine, because the medicine did not have time to work.

Avoiding STD Infections



STDs are common – a lot of people get infections each year. Even if you had Gonorrhea before, you can still get it again. The only way to completely avoid STDs, including HIV, is to not have sex. If you do have sex, **Use a latex condom every time and for every kind of sex – oral, anal, and vaginal sex.**

You can reduce your chances of getting Gonorrhea and other STDs, including HIV, by limiting the number of people you have sex with. The more sex partners you have, the higher your risk of getting an STD.

What should I do after taking the medicine?

DO NOT HAVE SEX (vaginal, oral, or anal) for at least 7 days after both you and your sex partner(s) have been treated. **The medicine takes 7 days to work.** You can get Gonorrhea again if you have sex before the medicine cures you and your partner(s).

Get checked for other STDs (including HIV). Even if you take the medicine, it is important to get tested for other STDs because people can have more than one STD at a time and this medicine does not cure all of them; it only cures Gonorrhea. We strongly recommend that you visit your health care provider.

What if I decide not to take the medicine?

If you decide not to take the medicine, you should visit a health care provider to get STD testing as soon as possible. Gonorrhea that is not treated can lead to serious health problems such as infertility (not being able to have children) and Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). PID can be very painful and can affect the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries and may lead to pregnancy in the fallopian tubes (ectopic pregnancy).

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is an STD that is passed through **all types of sex – oral, anal, and vaginal sex**. It frequently does not have symptoms, especially in women. When people do have symptoms, they can have pain or burning when they pee and pus or discharge from the penis, vagina, or anus. Even without symptoms, Gonorrhea can be passed to sex partners.

Untreated Gonorrhea can lead to serious health problems like infertility and Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: “What medicines is my partner giving me?”

A: “The two medicines are Cefixime and Azithromycin. These are antibiotics that are used to treat Gonorrhea.”

Q: “Why do I need this medicine?”

A: “You need this medicine because you were exposed to Gonorrhea by having sex with a partner who has Gonorrhea. The only way to know for sure that you have Gonorrhea is to get tested. If you take this medicine, it will cure Gonorrhea and help prevent health problems that can occur in the future because of untreated Gonorrhea.”

Q: “How do I know this medicine is real? What if I have questions?”

A: “You can call 311 or the phone number on the prescription.”

Q: “What if I am pregnant or think I may be pregnant?”

A: “It is okay to take these medicines while you are pregnant. After you take the medicine, you should see a health care provider as soon as possible to be tested for other STDs, which can be passed on from a mother to her baby during pregnancy and delivery. Tell the health care provider you were treated because your sex partner had Gonorrhea.”

Q: “What can I expect when I go to the pharmacy to pick-up the medicine?”

A: “If your sex partner gave you prescriptions for medicines to cure Gonorrhea, the pharmacist may ask you for your name, address, date of birth and form of payment (insurance, co-payment, self-pay) when the prescription is dropped off or picked up at the pharmacy.”

Q: “What are side effects of the medicine?”

A: “When side effects do occur, they may include: diarrhea, nausea, belly ache, headache and throwing up. These are common and not serious. Remember, if you throw up within an hour, you need to visit a clinic or a doctor to get more medicine because the medicine did not have time to work.”

Q: “What if I have a more serious reaction to this medicine?”

A: “Serious reactions are rare but can occur. These include trouble breathing/chest tightness, closing of the throat, swelling of lips or tongue, and hives (itchy bumps on the skin). If you have any of these problems shortly after taking this medicine, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.”

