

Mycoplasma genitalium

What is Mycoplasma genitalium?

Mycoplasma genitalium is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). *Mycoplasma genitalium* causes an infection of the cervix (the lower part of the womb) or the urethra (tube that takes urine from the bladder to the outside).

What are the symptoms of Mycoplasma genitalium?

Not everyone will have symptoms. When symptoms are present the following may occur:

- a change in vaginal discharge
- irregular bleeding or heavier than usual periods
- pelvic pain
- pain during sex
- bleeding after sex
- stinging or burning passing urine
- redness at the opening of the penis
- a discharge from the penis
- pain or tenderness of the testicles

How did I get Mycoplasma genitalium?

Mycoplasma genitalium is transmitted by having vaginal or anal sex without a condom with someone who has the infection.

How is Mycoplasma genitalium diagnosed?

Testing is done from a urine sample or swab. Swabs can be used to test the cervix, vagina and anus. After collection, the specimens are sent to the laboratory to see if the genetic material (DNA) of the bacteria is present. You may have the option of collecting your own vaginal or anal swabs.

How long does testing take and how do I get my results?

In most cases, test results will be available in two weeks. Your healthcare provider will let you know how to get your results.

What is the treatment for Mycoplasma genitalium?

Mycoplasma genitalium is treated with oral antibiotics. Treatment is important to prevent complications and spread of infection, even if you have no symptoms. Some strains of *Mycoplasma genitalium* may be resistant to standard treatment and an additional course of antibiotics may be required.

What can happen if *Mycoplasma genitalium* is not treated?

Untreated *Mycoplasma genitalium* can cause infection in the fallopian tubes or pelvis which is called Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). PID can have serious consequences including infertility, long-lasting pelvic pain and tubal (ectopic) pregnancy.

Do sexual partner(s) need treatment?

Yes, your sexual partner(s) may also have *Mycoplasma genitalium* through vaginal or anal sex. Current partner(s) should be tested and treatment should be considered. All other partners in the past 6 months, or since your last negative test, should also get tested.

When can I have sex again?

It is important that you don't have sex (even with a condom) during and for 7 days after your treatment.

Do I need further tests after I have been treated?

Yes, you will need testing one month after you complete your treatment. This is required to make sure the infection is gone.

How do I avoid getting infected again?

- Make sure that your current partner(s) are tested and treated.
- Ask new partners to get tested before you decide to stop using condoms.

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References

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (2016) *Mycoplasma Genitalium* Factsheet www.mshc.org.au

Mobley, V and Sena, A (2017). *Mycoplasma genitalium* infection in men and women. <http://www.uptodate.com/contents/mycoplasma-genitalium-infection-in-men-and-women>