



## 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. If you have symptoms, you may have:

- a change in vaginal discharge
- unusual bleeding or heavier than usual periods
- pelvic pain
- pain during sex
- bleeding after sex
- stinging or burning passing urine
- redness at the opening of your penis
- discharge from your penis
- pain or tenderness in your 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 your cervix, vagina and anus. The swabs or urine are sent to the laboratory to see if they have the genetic material (DNA) of the bacteria. You may be able to collect 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 stop the bacteria causing you problems and stop you spreading the infection. This is important even if you have no symptoms. Some strains of Mycoplasma genitalium may not respond well to standard treatment and you may need another course of antibiotics.

# Mycoplasma Genitalium



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

Untreated Mycoplasma genitalium can cause testicular infection, or 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 consider treatment. All 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 your treatment. You should wait for 7 days after your treatment has finished before having sex.

## Do I need more tests after I have been treated?

Yes. You will need to be tested one month after you finish your treatment. This test will 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.

If you need more information or have any questions, please contact the Canberra Sexual Health Clinic on (02) 5124 2184.

### References

Victorian Sexual Health Network (2020) Mycoplasma Genitalium Factsheet  
<https://www.staystifree.org.au/get-the-facts/mycoplasma-genitalium>

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