



Mycoplasma genitalium (Mgen)

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Mycoplasma genitalium – CDC Basic Fact Sheet



People who are sexually active can get *mycoplasma genitalium* (*Mgen*), a curable **sexually transmitted disease (STD)**. This fact sheet answers general questions about *Mgen*.

What is *Mycoplasma genitalium*?

Mycoplasma genitalium (or *Mgen*) is an STD that can cause infection among people of any gender. *Mgen* can infect the cervix (opening to the uterus), inside the penis (the urethra), or the rectum.

How is *Mgen* spread?

You can get *Mgen* by having vaginal or anal sex without a condom with someone who has the infection. Researchers are still determining whether sex partners can spread *Mgen* through oral sex.

A person with *Mgen* can pass the infection to someone even when they have no signs or symptoms.

How can I reduce my risk of getting *Mgen*?

The only way to completely avoid STDs such as *Mgen* is to not have vaginal or anal sex.

If you are sexually active, the following things can help lower your chances of getting *Mgen*:

- Being in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who does not have *Mgen*; and
- Using condoms [the right way](#) every time you have vaginal or anal sex.

How do I know if I have *Mgen*?

People with *Mgen* often have no symptoms.

Someone with symptoms may notice:

- Vaginal discharge;
- A burning sensation when peeing;
- Discharge from the penis.

See your healthcare provider if you notice any of these symptoms.

You should also see a provider if your partner has an STD or symptoms of one. Symptoms of an STD can include an unusual sore, a smelly discharge, burning when peeing, pain/bleeding after sex, and bleeding between periods.

How will my healthcare provider know if I have *Mgen*?

Laboratory tests can diagnose *Mgen*. Your healthcare provider may ask you to provide a urine sample for testing. In some cases, they may use (or ask you to use) a swab to get a sample from the vagina or cervix.

Is there a cure for *Mgen*?

Yes, the right treatment with antibiotics can cure *Mgen*. It is important that you take all of the medicine your healthcare provider gives you to treat the infection. Do not share medicine for *Mgen* with anyone. Your sex partner(s) should also see a healthcare provider who can test and treat them if needed. When taken properly, treatment will stop the infection and can decrease your chances of having problems later. Although medicine will stop the infection, it will not undo any permanent damage caused by the disease.

It is becoming harder to treat some *Mgen* infections, as drug-resistant strains of *Mgen* are increasing. Return to a healthcare provider if your symptoms continue for more than a few days after completing treatment.

When can I have sex again after my *Mgen* treatment?

Wait until you and your sex partner(s) complete treatment and symptoms are gone before you have sex again.

If you were treated for *Mgen* in the past, you can still get it again. This can happen if you have vaginal or anal sex without a condom with a person who has *Mgen*.

What happens if I don't get treated?

Left untreated, *Mgen* can cause serious and permanent health problems in women, including [pelvic inflammatory disease \(PID\)](#). Some of the complications of PID are:

- Formation of scar tissue that [blocks fallopian tubes](#) [↗](#) ;
- Ectopic pregnancy ([pregnancy outside the uterus](#) [↗](#));
- [Infertility](#) (not being able to get pregnant); and
- Long-term pelvic/abdominal pain.

For people who are already pregnant, *Mgen* may be associated with preterm (early) delivery or pregnancy loss.

We do not know if men develop long-term health problems from *Mgen*.

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Source: [Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)