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# Gonorrhea

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission: \_\_\_\_\_

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- I. **The client/caregiver can define gonorrhea.**
  - A. Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacteria *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.
  - B. It can grow and multiply in the reproductive tract of women, and in the urethra of both men and women. It can also grow in the mouth, throat, eyes, and anus.
  - C. It is spread through contact with penis, vagina, mouth, or anus. Ejaculation does not need to occur for infection to occur.
  - D. It can also be spread from mother to baby during delivery.
  - E. The highest reported rates of infection are among sexually active teens, young adults, and blacks.
  
- II. **The client/caregiver can list symptoms of gonorrhea.**
  - A. Men can develop symptoms from 2 to 5 days after infection until as long as 30 days. Many men do not develop symptoms.
  - B. If men develop symptoms, they may be
    - Burning sensation when urinating
    - White, yellow, or green discharge from penis
    - Painful or swollen testicles
  - C. Most infected women have no symptoms. If they have symptoms, they are mild and consist of
    - Painful or burning sensation when urinating
    - Increased vaginal discharge
    - Vaginal bleeding between periods
  - D. Symptoms of rectal infection include
    - Rectal discharge
    - Anal itching, soreness, or bleeding
    - Painful bowel movements
  - E. Infections in the throat may cause a sore throat.

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- III. **The client/caregiver can explain how gonorrhea is diagnosed.**
  - A. A gram stain of a sample from the urethra or cervix under a microscope in a doctors' office or clinic can show bacterium. This is more effective for the male.
  - B. Samples for testing from parts of the body suspected of infection can be obtained and sent to laboratory.
  - C. If gonorrhea is present in the cervix or urethra, a urine sample can be sent to the laboratory for testing.
  - D. Client should be tested for other sexually transmitted diseases.
  
- IV. **The client/caregiver can explain the treatment of gonorrhea.**
  - A. Clients positive for gonorrhea should be tested for other sexually transmitted diseases.
  - B. Antibiotic therapy should be administered, and all medication should be taken as ordered.
  - C. Drug therapy can stop the infection, but not correct any damage done.
  
- V. **The client/caregiver can list possible complications.**
  - A. In women, complications can be
    - Pelvic inflammatory disease
    - Internal pelvic abscesses
    - Chronic pelvic pain
    - Cause infertility
    - Increase risk of ectopic pregnancy
  - B. In men, complications can be
    - Epididymitis, which can lead to infertility
  - C. In both men and women
    - Spread to blood or joints
    - Can more easily contract HIV
  - D. Infants/newborns
    - Blindness
    - Joint infections
    - Life-threatening blood infections

(Continued)

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VI. The client/caregiver can list measures to prevent gonorrhea.

- A. Abstain from sexual intercourse.
- B. Be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship.
- C. Have sexual partners examined, tested, and treated.
- D. Have consistent and correct use of condoms.
- E. If under treatment, avoid sex until treatment is complete.
- F. Notify physician if symptoms persist or recur.

RESOURCES

Healthy People 2010  
[www.health.gov/healthypeople](http://www.health.gov/healthypeople)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/std/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/)

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