

PPNG

FACT SHEET

What is PPNG?

PPNG or *penicillinase-producing neisseria gonorrhoea* is a strain of gonorrhoea. These bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotic penicillin. They must be treated with a different antibiotic.

Who Can Get PPNG?

PPNG is transmitted by sexual contact, in the same way that gonorrhoea is transmitted. The infection passes from one person to another through body fluids from the penis, vagina, mouth or rectum. Because it is more difficult to treat than gonorrhoea, it is important that sexual partners know that a person has PPNG and that they may need a special antibiotic.

What are the Symptoms?

Many people can have PPNG without any symptoms at all. Symptoms usually start from 2-7 days after contact with a person who has been infected. There may be other sexually transmitted diseases present, so individuals should be checked for other diseases when they see the doctor.

Symptoms to look for are:

- Unusual discharge from the penis, vagina or rectum
- Pain or burning when urinating
- Pain or cramping in the lower abdominal area for women
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Pain in the testicles for men

What is the Treatment?

A swab is taken and a laboratory report will clarify if the infection is gonorrhoea and if the strain of gonorrhoea is PPNG or not. If the report is positive for PPNG, a special antibiotic will be prescribed for the infected individual and their partner(s). While on antibiotics the individual should not have any sexual contact.

How Can You Prevent PPNG?

You can reduce your risk of getting PPNG by:

- Limiting the number of sexual partners you have
- Using condoms and rubber dams for all sexual contact
- Learning about prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases
- Practicing safer sex
- Seeing your doctor if you have any of the above symptoms