

LGV

(Lymphogranuloma Venereum)

What is LGV?

LGV is a sexually transmitted infection caused by bacteria called Chlamydia trachomatis, serotypes L1, L2 and L3. These serotypes are related to but distinct from other chlamydial infections, which are common in Canada and other developed countries. The infections caused by LGV are more invasive than those caused by other chlamydia infections.

Who Can Get LGV?

A person can become infected if he/she engages in genital-genital sex, genital-oral sex, genital- anal sex or oral-anal sex with an infected person. The bacteria are present in small, painless lesions often found on the genitalia, anus or in the mouth of an infected person. An infected person may not show any symptoms.

What are the Symptoms?

The LGV infection passes through three stages with each stage having different symptoms. The infection will remain in the body until it is cured. The symptoms to look for are:

- A small painless lesion on the genitals, anus or mouth. It may become ulcerated or go unnoticed
- Low grade fever, chills, malaise, painful muscles and joints
- Painful lymph nodes, especially in the groin area
- Bloody, purulent (pus) or mucous discharge from the anus

The final stages of the infection can cause significant scarring and possible destruction of the genitalia

What is the Treatment?

LGV can be treated with an antibiotic. It is important to take all the medication until it is gone. It is also important to have follow-up visit with a doctor to make sure the antibiotic was effective. All sexual partners within the previous 60 days should also be treated.

How can you prevent LGV?

Reduce your risk of LGV infection by:

- Having monogamous sex or limiting the number of sexual partners
- Avoiding anonymous or casual sexual activity
- Practicing safer sex by using latex condoms with oral, vaginal or anal sex
- Choosing not to engage in sexual activity if you or your partner has a lesion on the genitals, anus or in the mouth
- Learning about prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections
- Seeking medical attention if an infection is suspected