

Important information about your sexual health: Please read both sides of this sheet carefully.

If you have any questions about the medicine for gonorrhea, please contact your doctor or nurse.

For more information about gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) or to find an STD clinic near you, visit the Connecticut Department of Public Health website at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/std> or call (860) 509-7920. Anyone 13 years of age and older can be seen and treated for an STD without parental consent.

Why am I getting medicine or a prescription for medicine?

Your sex partner has recently been treated for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) called **gonorrhea**. You may have it too. That's why your sex partner is bringing you a prescription or medicine to treat gonorrhea. You should take this medicine as soon as possible.

What is gonorrhea and what are the signs and symptoms?

Gonorrhea is a very common infection that both men and women can get from having vaginal, penile, anal, or oral sex. For most people, there are no symptoms. But if you have the infection, even if there are no symptoms, you can still pass it on to anyone you have sex with.

Women with signs or symptoms might have:

- *Yellow or white discharge from the vagina*
- *Pain or bleeding during or after sex*
- *Bleeding between periods*
- *Burning or pain when you pee*
- *Lower belly pain, cramps and back pain*
- *Nausea*
- *Fever*

Men with signs or symptoms might have:

- *Yellow or white discharge (drip) from the penis*
- *Burning or pain when you pee*
- *Burning or itching at the opening of the penis*
- *Pain or swelling in the testicles (balls)*

What is the cure for gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is usually cured with one dose of an antibiotic called ceftriaxone (an injection) **and** one dose of an antibiotic called azithromycin (a pill). These doses of medicine do not treat other STDs like syphilis.

Today you are being given one dose of cefixime (a pill similar to ceftriaxone) and one dose of azithromycin, or a prescription to get these antibiotics from the drug store. Before you take these medicines, please read all of the following information carefully.

1. If you have any of these problems, you must see a doctor or nurse as soon as possible because you may need stronger medicine.

- *Belly pain*
- *Nausea*
- *Fever*
- *Cramps*
- *Throwing up*
- *Pain in the testicles (balls)*

2. Do not take these medicines before checking with your own doctor or pharmacist if:

- You are allergic to any medicines
- You have serious health problems, such as kidney, heart, liver disease, or seizures

If you cannot take these medicines because of other health problems or allergies, see your doctor or nurse as soon as possible to get the best gonorrhea treatment for you.

3. How do I take these medicines?

- Take *all* the medicine at once by mouth.
- If you throw up in the hour after taking the medicine, you will need to get more medicine from your clinic, doctor, or nurse because the medicine did not have time to work.
- Do not share this medicine with anyone else.

4. *What if I am pregnant, or think I may be pregnant?*

Cefixime or azithromycin will not hurt your baby. Gonorrhea can be passed from a mother to her baby during pregnancy and can cause health problems for the baby. If you are pregnant, take the medicine and see your doctor or nurse as soon as you can. Tell them you were treated because your sex partner has gonorrhea.

5. *What should I do after taking these medicines?*

- **Do not have vaginal, penile, anal, or oral sex for at least seven days after you AND all of your sex partner(s) have taken this medicine.** It takes seven days for this medicine to cure gonorrhea. You can get gonorrhea again if you have sex before waiting for the medicine to work on you and your partner(s).
- **Get checked for other STDs.** These medicines do not treat other STDs. Even if you take these medicines, it is important to get tested for other STDs because people can have more than one at a time. Get checked by your doctor or nurse for chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV.
- **Have a test to make sure you don't have gonorrhea.** The best treatment for gonorrhea is an antibiotic injection along with a pill. Since you are only taking pills for your treatment, it is important that you have a test to make sure you were cured.

6. *What might happen if I don't take these medicines?*

Gonorrhea that is not treated can lead to infertility (not being able to have children). In women, untreated gonorrhea can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), which can be very painful. In men, gonorrhea that is not treated can cause infection and pain in the testicles.

7. *What are the common side effects of these medicines?*

Some side effects of cefixime and azithromycin include diarrhea, nausea, belly pain, headache, and throwing up. Remember that if you throw up in the hour after taking your medicine, you need to get more medicine.

8. *What if I have an allergic reaction after taking these medicines?*

Very serious allergic reactions are rare, but can happen.

If you have any of these problems after taking these medicines, call 911 or go to the emergency room:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trouble breathing/chest tightness• Closing of the throat | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swelling of the lips or tongue• Hives (bumps on the skin that itch) |
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If you had an allergic reaction: when you feel better, please call the STD Control Program at 860-509-7920 so that the Department of Public Health can find out how many people had problems with the medicine.

How can gonorrhea be prevented?

The only way to avoid gonorrhea and other STDs including HIV, is not to have sex. If you do have sex, using a condom correctly EVERY TIME you have any kind of sex can lower the chances of you getting an STD. Getting screened for STDs at least once a year is also a great way to stay healthy.