

Antibiotic Resistance in Gonorrhea

What is antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotics are a type of medicine that can kill bacteria and are used to treat infections that are caused by bacteria. Antibiotics do not work on infections that are caused by viruses. Over time bacteria can change and evolve so that certain medicine no longer works to treat the infection. This is called antibiotic resistance.



What has changed for gonorrhea?



The bacteria that cause gonorrhea have changed and some of the medicine we have used no longer works as well against them. We have to use different medicine that can stop the infection.

We are still able to treat gonorrhea. The gonorrhea medication that was in use before was pills, but now the recommended medication is an injection.

The same rules apply, do not have sex with anyone for 7 days after the injection to give the antibiotics time to kill the bacteria.



How can I stay healthy?

- Use safer sex practices to keep you and your partner(s) healthy
- Get tested regularly and stay informed on sexually transmitted infections
- Talk with your partner(s) about activities that you are both comfortable with
- Stay up to date with vaccinations - ask a care provider or check [HealthLinkBC](#) or [Smart Sex](#) for information
- DoxyPEP does not protect against gonorrhea so continue to get tested regularly if you are on this medicine.
- Never take medicine that was prescribed to someone else, or old medication you didn't finish before, even if you think you have the same symptoms.
- Always follow all the instructions from the health care provider.
- Get rid of old medications safely - bring them to any pharmacy for safe disposal, never flush them in the toilet or put in the garbage.



Learn more at smartsexresource.ca

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antibiotic
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Speak to a health care provider to discuss your specific questions or concerns.