

# Mycoplasma Genitalium (MGen)

## What is mycoplasma genitalium?

Mycoplasma genitalium (MGen) is a bacterial infection that can be transmitted through sex. It can cause symptoms like burning, pain and discharge in your urethra (penis), vagina, front hole, rectum (butt) and throat.

## How common is it?

More than 1 in 100 adults might have MGen.

## How do you get it?

MGen can be passed from one person to another during anal, oral, vaginal, or front hole sex.

## How is it diagnosed?

We diagnose MGen by talking to you about your symptoms and sexual history, doing a physical exam, and testing your urine or doing a vaginal or front hole swab. Once a urine sample or swab is taken, it is analyzed by a lab for the presence of MGen bacteria which usually takes about 3-5 days.

## What are the symptoms?

Many people don't get symptoms from an MGen infection. If you do have symptoms, they might include burning, stinging or pain when you pee or discharge from your penis. Vaginal or front hole symptoms might include pain or bleeding during sex, pain in your pelvic area, bleeding between periods, and discharge from your vagina or front hole.

## How do you prevent it?

You can prevent MGen infection by using condoms during sex.

## How is it treated?

If you have symptoms, we recommend getting tested and treated for gonorrhea and chlamydia first. If you still have symptoms after treatment, we will test for MGen and begin treatment the same day. At this time, we don't recommend that people without symptoms get tested for MGen. As always, we recommend regular testing for other STIs (gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis) even if you don't have symptoms.

Resistance is growing against many of the commonly used antibiotics including Azithromycin and Doxycycline. We currently use Moxifloxacin which requires 7–10 days of treatment. While resistance testing for MGen is not routinely available, we can use Azithromycin if we know that it is not resistant to this antibiotic.

If your symptoms do not go away after treatment, we'll ask you to return for further testing and treatment if appropriate.

Wait one week after starting treatment before having sex.

## Should my sex partners get treated too?

We recommend that only individuals experiencing symptoms get tested.

## Special considerations with HIV?

People living with HIV may be more likely to have MGen, and MGen may make HIV transmission more likely (in the absence of PrEP, U=U, or other HIV prevention methods).

## Sexual health services from San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Get free sexual health services including STI & HIV testing, PrEP, PEP, anal health care, harm reduction supplies, gender-affirming hormones & more.

We can test and treat MGen at Magnet, the sexual health clinic at San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

### VISIT US

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