

Fact Sheet

LGV – Lymphogranuloma Venereum

October 2005

What is LGV?

LGV is a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) caused by an aggressive strain of another STI chlamydia. LGV is now in Toronto and other North American cities for the first time.

How do I get LGV?

You get LGV from an infected person by:

- unprotected anal, oral or vaginal sex
- fisting or sharing sex toys
- having a new or multiple sex partners

How do I know if I have LGV?

LGV has 3 stages:

Stage 1

- can occur 3 days to 4 weeks after infection.
- you may notice:
 - a small painless sore at the site of infection (in the rectum, penis, vagina or mouth)
 - nothing, the sore can heal on it's own and/or be hidden inside the vagina, rectum or throat

Stage 2

- occurs 10-30 days after stage 1
- you may notice:
 - fever, chills, headaches and fatigue
 - possible painful swelling of the glands (lymph nodes) closest to the site of infection
 - pus-filled swelling called bubo - mostly noticed in the groin area
 - infection in rectum (bum): possible blood, pus, pain or constipation
 - infection in vagina or penis: possible discharge
 - infection in mouth or throat: buboes may be in neck or armpits

Stage 3

- occurs without treatment
- you may notice:
 - extreme swelling of the genitals
 - abscesses or ulcers
 - scarring or tissue damage may lead to narrowing of the rectum or vagina

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How can LGV be treated?

Three weeks of antibiotics cures LGV.

What else do I need to know?

It is easier to get or to give HIV if you have untreated LGV because of the bleeding and sores. You may also be at higher risk for getting other STIs.

How can I prevent the spread of LGV?

- Use latex or polyurethane condoms correctly every time you have sex.
- Wash or cover sex toys in a new condom if sharing.
- If you think you are infected, avoid any sexual contact – including naked rubbing. See your doctor or go to your local STI clinic.
- Notify all sexual contacts immediately so they can be examined and treated.

To reduce your risk of getting a sexually transmitted infection (STI), use a condom every time you have vaginal, anal or oral sex.

**For more information or to find a sexual health clinic near you:
Call the AIDS and Sexual Health InfoLine at 416-392-2437
or visit www.toronto.ca/health.**