Lymphogranuloma venereum

Also known as LGV

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is an STI caused by certain strains of chlamydia which can be passed on during sex without a condom.

QUICK FACTS

- LGV is an STI caused by chlamydia
- LGV can cause pain, discharge or bleeding in the anus or ulcers on the genitals
- The test sample you provided for chlamydia is sent back to the laboratory for further testing
- Treatment is usually a longer course of antibiotic tablets

What is this?

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is an infection caused by certain strains of chlamydia (types L1 - L3). It can infect the genitals or anus and may spread to the lymph nodes in the groin area.

How do you get it?

LGV can be passed on through anal or vaginal sex without a condom with a person who has LGV.

You can get LGV even if the person with LGV has no symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms vary widely but may appear from 3 - 30 days after infection.

Vagina

If you have a vagina, the first sign of infection is an ulcer on the vagina or cervix, which often goes unnoticed. The infection then spreads to the lymph nodes in the groin area. These glands become swollen.

Penis

If you have a penis,-the first sign of infection is an ulcer on the penis. The infection then spreads to the lymph nodes in the groin area. These glands become swollen.

Anus

If you have had anal sex without a condom with a person infected with LGV, it can cause pain in the anal canal, discharge or bleeding and the feeling of being unable to properly empty your bowels.

How do you test for it?

When your doctor suspects LGV as a result of a positive-chlamydia-test as well as your symptoms, the sample you provided for chlamydia is then sent back to the laboratory for further testing. The results may take a few weeks.

How is it treated?

LGV is treated with a long course of antibiotics, typically 3 weeks.

If your doctor thinks it is likely you have LGV, they may suggest starting treatment before the test result is available.

How can I protect myself?

Your best protection against getting chlamydia and LGV again is by:

- letting your sexual partners know about your chlamydia and LGV infection
- making sure that your current sexual partners are also treated for chlamydia and LGV
- using condoms with any future partners

Where can I get help?

- Visit a sexual health service near you
- Visit your local doctor
- Visit your local community health centre

DISCLAIMER

This fact sheet provides general sexual health information and is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor.

If you have concerns about your health, you should seek advice from your doctor.

If you require urgent care, you should go to your nearest Emergency Department or call 000.