



Mycoplasma Fact Sheet

What is Mycoplasma?

Mycoplasma Genitalium is a bacterium that can infect both men and women. Whilst Mycoplasma can be found in normal, healthy genital tracts, Mycoplasma infection is also a little known but common STI that can be spread by vaginal, penile, oral, or anal sexual contact and intercourse.

What are the symptoms (if any)?

People with a Mycoplasma infection often have no symptoms.

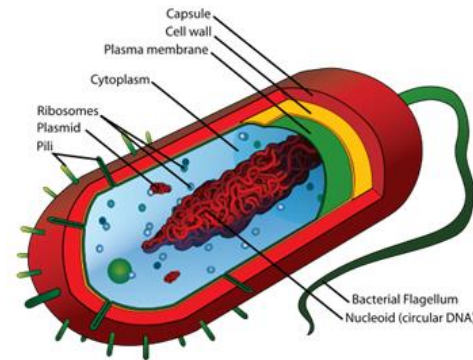
Where symptoms occur in women, these can include a burning sensation when urinating, vaginal itching, painful intercourse and vaginal discharge.

Where symptoms occur in men, these can include a burning or painful sensation when urinating, inflamed urethra or redness of the penis. It can also cause arthritis.

How is it treated?

Mycoplasma Genitalium is treated with antibiotics. One of the differentiating characteristics of Mycoplasma from other bacteria is that it does not have a cell wall. This feature makes the Mycoplasma bacteria particularly difficult to treat. There are a number of antibiotics which can be used to treat a Mycoplasma infection but it is particularly important that you complete the full course of the antibiotic as there is evidence of this bacteria quickly developing resistance to antibiotics if the complete course is not taken.

You should abstain from sexual intercourse until your treatment is finished, and ensure that your



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sexual partners are also treated to avoid re-infecting each other.

What happens if you do not get treated?

If a Mycoplasma infection is left untreated, there is increasing evidence that it can cause infertility from Pelvic Inflammatory Disease in women. Also, like Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia, a Mycoplasma infection may emerge as a recognised cause of cervicitis in women and as a cause for persistent urethritis in men. A Mycoplasma infection will also cause an increased risk of getting other STIs, including HIV.

Better2Know Testing Information

You should wait 14 days after any incident you are concerned about before getting tested for Mycoplasma.

Better2Know's standard Mycoplasma test uses a urine sample to test for Mycoplasma.