

# January 2022 | E-Newsletter

## Center for Gonorrhea Excellence

### Welcome!

The Center for Gonorrhea Excellence was established as part of the CDC-funded **Strengthening the U.S. Response to Resistant Gonorrhea**



(SURRG) grant in Indiana and has become a centralized repository of information on best practices related to management of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections, especially as it relates to the threat of antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea.



The center also focuses on improving the quality of data pertaining to people diagnosed with gonorrhea, which will improve our understanding of the risk factors associated with acquiring gonorrhea and the healthcare-seeking behaviors practiced by patients who have been diagnosed. These activities will be included in another CDC-funded project in Indiana, the **STD Surveillance Network (SSuN)** grant, and will enhance our STD surveillance activities at the state and local levels.

### Gonorrhea in the news

This section includes national and international headlines relating to gonorrhea.

#### Lancet Microbe study shows resistance increasing across the globe

A retrospective study published in the Lancet Microbe in September 2021 with data from 2017-2018 reported susceptibility results from WHO regions across the globe for the antimicrobials that have been used to treat *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections for the past three decades. All of the countries reported ciprofloxacin resistance, 84% of countries reported azithromycin resistance, and 47% and 31% of countries reported resistance to cefixime and ceftriaxone, respectively... [\[read more\]](#).

#### Australian group researches a protein that could aid in future treatment

Researchers at Flinders University and the Australian National University have analyzed the prime cellular mechanism of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* when it comes to antimicrobial uptake, paving the way for further developments in treatment options. The team analyzed the MtrD protein, which promotes efficient multidrug efflux function in the bacterial cell membrane. The results of their research were published in the American Society for Microbiology... [\[read more\]](#).

### Information hub

The following sections provide specific resources available from the center as they pertain to best practices around gonorrhea. If you'd like to see more resources in these hubs, please let us know.

### Did you know?

The first ever documented treatment of gonorrhea was found in records kept on the English warship the "Mary Rose", where sailors were treated for the infection with an injection of mercury.



### Provider resources



Treatment recommendations for patients diagnosed with gonorrhea were updated by the CDC in 2021. The main treatment for uncomplicated gonorrhea is **ceftriaxone 500mg intramuscular in a single dose**. If a patient weighs more than 300 lbs., then the dosage is increased to **1 gram**. Azithromycin is no longer recommended for treating gonorrhea, with concerns over increasing resistance and antimicrobial stewardship. Updated alternative regimens, as well as regimens for complicated cases, are available on the CDC's [website](#).

### Data and surveillance



In the last year, the number of gonorrhea cases has increased nationwide **and in Indiana, with 14,600 cases reported in 2021**. This total is more than 20% higher than numbers prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, when Indiana reported just over 12,000 cases in 2019. With competing increases in syphilis cases and an active syphilis outbreak in Evansville, IN, it is more important than ever that **providers adhere to treatment guidelines for gonorrhea** as field staff are not able to complete prompt follow-up to verify the correct treatment was administered.

#### Recent ARGC literature

- ◆ [Acceptability of a Gonococcal Vaccine Among Sexually Active MSM](#)
- ◆ [HIV Screening Among Gonorrhea-Diagnosed Individuals; Baltimore, Maryland](#)

#### Upcoming events

- ◆ 1/19 [Public Health Academy- HIV 101](#)
- ◆ 1/26 [Being Trauma Informed in Reproductive and Sexual Health Care](#)

#### State resources

- ◆ [STD prevention website](#)
- ◆ [Center for Gonorrhea Excellence website](#)

#### National resources

- ◆ [CDC Division of STD Prevention](#)
- ◆ [APHA Reproductive & Sexual Health](#)



### Reinfection vs. treatment failure

One of the most common questions we get from healthcare providers is when should they consider a patient a potential treatment failure for

gonorrhea. A few quick questions can help you navigate the difference between the two scenarios. First, **how long has it been between when they were adequately treated for their gonorrhea infection and the next positive lab?** If the answer is 30 days or more, then this is considered a reinfection. If the second positive lab is within 30 days, continue to the next question: **did the patient re-engage in sex prior to the 7 days post-treatment?** If so, this is probably a reinfection. If not, use this [form](#) to alert the state health department of a potential treatment failure.

### Editor's Desk



**Have news or literature you'd like to see featured?**  
**Have an event coming up you'd like to share?**

Contact the newsletter editor to submit for distribution.

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