

## **What is *Mycoplasma genitalium* (MG)**

MG is a bacterium that has been recently identified as a sexually transmitted infection. It can infect the mucus membranes of the urethra, cervix, throat, and anus. It is transmitted via vaginal, anal, and oral sex.

## **What are the symptoms?**

MG infection can be silent (no symptoms) or can present with:

### *Males*

Penile discharge

Stinging or burning on passing urine

### *Females*

Pain in the pelvis and during sexual intercourse

Abnormal vaginal discharge

## **How is MG tested for?**

MG is tested for on a swab or urine in the same way as the laboratory tests for chlamydia infection

## **How is MG treated?**

MG is treated with antibiotics. Unfortunately antibiotic resistance is a problem and you may need to have a second course if the first one doesn't clear the infection

## **How do I know if the infection is gone?**

You will be tested again 3-4 weeks after antibiotic treatment. If the test is still positive, you will be prescribed a different antibiotic.

## **Should my partner/s be treated?**

Yes, it is important to tell all sexual partners from the past three months of your diagnosis and suggest they have testing and treatment. You must use condoms during sex for a week after antibiotic treatment.

## **How do I avoid getting MG infection again?**

The best protection is to use condoms with all sexual activity – i.e. practice safe sex. More information can be found here - <http://www.ashs.org.nz/safer-sex.html>.