MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM (MGEN)

Mycoplasma genitalium, or Mgen, is a bacterium that can infect the reproductive tract and is passed on through sexual contact.

In men, infection with Mgen can cause urethritis(swelling and irritation of the urethra), and in women it has been linked to cervicitis (inflammation of the cervix), pelvic inflammatory disease, and possibly infertility.

While there aren't statistics to show how common infection with Mgen is, in one study of 2,932 young people, Mgen was more prevalent than gonorrhea, but less than chlamydia and trichomoniasis.

Like chlamydia and gonorrhea, Mgen can be asymptomatic—meaning you can have the infection but show no symptoms—particularly in women. If a person does have symptoms, these may include:

- pain with urination
- vaginal discharge
- discomfort with sex
- a discharge from the penis

There are currently two FDA-approved diagnostic tests for Mgen. Labs can use a specific type of test method—nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT)—to identify an Mgen infection. Testing can be done on urine, cervical swabs, or urethral swabs.

Since Mgen is a bacterial infection, it can typically be cured with antibiotics, sometimes with a single

OVERVIEW

- *Mycoplasma genitalium*, or Mgen, was first identified in 1980.
- In one study of young people, it was found to be more common than gonorrhea infection.
- Mgen can be cured, but about 50% of all infections are caused by organisms that are already resistant to azithromycin, so additional treatment may be needed.

dose. Occasionally, if a first course of antibiotics doesn't cure the infection, an additional antibiotic treatment may be required.

Learn More
Learn more about Mgen and other STIs from the American Sexual Health Association. a trusted nonprofit organization that has advocated on behalf of those at risk for STIs for more than a century. Our websites include:

www.ashasexualhealth.org
www.iwannaknow.org
www.quierosaber.org
www.nccc-online.org
www.askexpertsnow.com
www.YESmeansTEST.org

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AMERICAN SEXUAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Reviewed by Denise Linton, DNS, FNP, FAANP, October 2021