

## **URGENT and PRIVATE**

### ***IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HEALTH***

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR SEX PARTNERS OF PERSONS WITH GONORRHEA AND DIRECTIONS FOR SEX PARTNERS OF PERSONS WITH GONORRHEA AND CHLAMYDIA**

### **PLEASE READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY**

Your sex partner has recently been diagnosed with one or more sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). This means you may have been exposed to chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. You can get chlamydia and gonorrhea from having any kind of sex (oral, vaginal, or anal) with a person who already has them. The good news is that they are easily treated. You are being given two different types of medicine. To cure gonorrhea you are receiving cefixime (sometimes known as “Suprax”) or cefpodoxime (sometimes known as “Vantin”). The other is called azithromycin (sometimes known as “Zithromax”). It will cure chlamydia. Your partner may have given you both medicines, or a prescription that you can take to a pharmacy. These instructions are for how to take cefixime, cefpodoxime and azithromycin.

The best way to take care of these infections is to see your own doctor or clinic provider right away. If you can't get to a doctor in the next several days, and you were given both medications, you should take both. Even if you decide to take the medicines, it is very important to see a doctor as soon as you can to get tested for other STDs that these medications may not cure. Having STDs can increase your risk of getting HIV, so make sure to also get an HIV test.

### **SYMPTOMS**

Some people with chlamydia and gonorrhea have symptoms, but many do not. Symptoms of chlamydia and gonorrhea may include having an unusual discharge from the penis, vagina, or anus. You may also have pain when you urinate, or pain in your groin, testicles, pelvis, or lower belly. Women may experience pain during sex. Many people with chlamydia and gonorrhea do not know they are infected because they feel fine.

### **BEFORE TAKING THE MEDICINE**

The medicines are very safe. **DO NOT TAKE** if any of the following are true:

- You are female and are pregnant, or have lower belly pain; pain during sex; vomiting; or fever.
- You are male and have pain or swelling in the testicles or fever.
- You have one or more painful and swollen joints, or a rash all over your body.
- You have ever had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking cefpodoxime, cefixime, azithromycin, or other antibiotics. People who are allergic to some antibiotics may be allergic to other types. If you do have allergies to antibiotics, you should check with your doctor before taking these medicines.
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart, or liver disease.
- You are currently taking another prescription medicine, including medicine for diabetes.
- If you are currently taking another prescription medicine, including medicine for diabetes consult your doctor or a pharmacist before taking the medication to ask about drug interactions.

If any of these circumstances exist, or if you are not sure, do not take these medicines. Instead, you should talk to your doctor as soon as possible. Your doctor will find the best treatment for you.

## WARNINGS

- If you performed oral sex on someone who was infected with gonorrhea, the medicine may not work as well. You need to see a doctor to get stronger medicine.
- If you do not take medicine to cure chlamydia or gonorrhea, you can get very sick. If you're a woman, you might not be able to have children.
- If you are pregnant, seek medical evaluation before taking the medicines

## HOW TO TAKE THE MEDICINE

- Take the medicines with food. This will decrease the chances of having an upset stomach, and will increase the amount your body absorbs.
- Take all pills with water at the same time. You need to take all pills in order to be cured.
- Do NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Rolaids, or Maalox) for one hour before or two hours after taking the medicines.
- Do NOT share or give these medicines to anyone else.

## SIDE EFFECTS

Very few people experience any of these problems. Possible side effects include:

- Slightly upset stomach;
- Diarrhea;
- Dizziness;
- Vaginal yeast infection.

These are well-known side effects and are not serious.

## ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Allergic reactions are rare. If you have ever had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems or other allergic reactions with azithromycin or other antibiotics, consult your doctor or pharmacy before taking.

Possible serious allergic reactions include:

- Difficulty breathing/tightness in the chest;
- Closing of your throat;
- Swelling of your lips or tongue;
- Hives (bumps or welts on your skin that itch intensely).

## NEXT STEPS

- Now that you have your medicines, do not have sex for the next seven days after you have taken the medicines. It takes seven days for the medicines to cure chlamydia and gonorrhea. If you have sex without a condom, or with a condom that breaks, during those first seven days, you can still pass on the infection to your sex partners.
- If you have any other sex partners, tell them you are getting treated for chlamydia and gonorrhea, so they can get treated too.
- If you think you do have symptoms of a sexually transmitted disease and they do not go away within seven days after taking these medicines, please go to a doctor for more testing and treatment.
- People who are infected with chlamydia and gonorrhea once are very likely to get infected again. It is a good idea to get tested for chlamydia, gonorrhea and other STDs three months from now to be sure you did not get another infection.

Congratulations on taking good care of yourself! If you have any questions about the medicine, contact your partner's healthcare provider. For more information about chlamydia, gonorrhea or other STDs, or to find STD testing in your area, please call the Minnesota Family Planning and STD Hotline at 1.800.78FACTS (1.800.783.2287 voice/TTY) or visit [www.inspot.org/minnesota](http://www.inspot.org/minnesota).

Adapted from *Patient-Delivered Partner Therapy for Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae: Guidance for Medical Providers in California*, California Department of Public Health Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Control Branch in collaboration with California STD Controllers Association, March 27, 2007



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