



Donovanosis

What is donovanosis?

Donovanosis is a condition that causes ulcers to form on the genitals. It is caused by the bacteria, *Klebsiella granulomatis* (*Calymmatobacterium granulomatis*), and can be cured by antibiotics. It is found across the world in people who live in poor socio-economic circumstances.

What are the symptoms?

People with donovanosis usually notice 1 or more fairly painless ulcers or nodules on the genitals, or around the anus. These will get bigger if they aren't treated. Other bacteria can infect these sores and cause pain and a distressing and unpleasant smell.

How does someone get infected?

Donovanosis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). A very small proportion of people may be infected through direct, non-sexual contact. There have been reports of the infection being spread from mother to child during delivery, but this is very rare.

How long does it take for symptoms to develop?

Symptoms generally appear within a few weeks of contact.

How do I know I have it?

There are a number of causes of genital ulcers, the doctor, nurse or health worker will

take specimens from the sore as well as doing a blood test and collecting specimens to detect other STIs. They will start you on treatment straight away.

What is the treatment?

It is easy to treat donovanosis with antibiotics. The ulcers start healing within days. Pain killers may be taken if the ulcer is painful.

At 3 and 6 months you will be contacted by the clinic staff to check that the ulcer has not returned.

What if donovanosis is not treated?

If the sores are not treated, the genitals can become scarred and distorted. If the ulcers are extensive, anaemia can result from long term blood loss. Cancer of the genitals has been reported to be associated with donovanosis.

Any person with a genital ulcer has a higher risk of being infected with HIV if they are exposed to it.

Do sexual partners need treatment?

Recent sexual partners should be contacted. They should be examined, offered testing for other sexually transmitted infections and treated as appropriate. Clinic staff can offer confidential assistance for people with

Further fact sheets available at <http://www.nt.gov.au/health/cdc/cdc.shtml>

For more information contact Clinic 34 in your area.

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