Gonorrhea

Prelims – *Current events of National Importance| General Science*

Mains (GS I) – *Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.*

Why in News?

A new study finds that a new type of antibiotic, gepotidacin for the treatment of urinary tract infections in women could also work against gonorrhoea infections

- It is a contagious ***sexually transmitted infection***.
- **Caused by** - Neisseria gonorrhoeae, type of bacteria.
- It is often called "the clap" and can affect the genitals, mouth, or rectum.
- **Transmission -** Primarily occurs through vaginal, oral, or anal sex.
- It can also be transmitted from a mother to her baby during childbirth.
- **Symptoms**
    - **Men** - May experience pain or burning while urinating, discharge from the penis, and/or testicular pain.
    - **Women** - May experience vaginal discharge, pain or burning while urinating, and/or pelvic pain.
    - **Rectal Gonorrhea** - May cause anal itching, discharge, or pain during bowel movements.
    - **Throat Gonorrhea** - Can cause sore throat.
    - **Asymptomatic Infections** - Many people with gonorrhea have no symptoms, making it easy to spread unknowingly.
- **High -Risk Category** - Sexually active women younger than 25 and men who have sex with men are at increased risk of getting gonorrhea.
- **Severity** - Gonorrhea can lead to serious health problems if left untreated, and though rare, can even spread to the blood or joints.
- Among women, untreated gonorrhea can cause an infection of the reproductive organs called pelvic inflammatory disease, which can lead to a greater risk of pregnancy complications and infertility.
- In men, gonorrhea also can lead to infertility in rare cases.
- **Treatment** - The primary treatment for gonorrhea is ceftriaxone, an injectable cephalosporin antibiotic.
- However, due to the emergence of drug-resistant strains, dual therapy with ceftriaxone and azithromycin is often recommended, especially in areas with high rates of resistance.
- **Prevalence -** Gonorrhea is the 2nd most common sexually transmitted disease caused by bacteria, just behind chlamydia.
- In the United States, gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted infections or STIs have

become more common.

Reference

CNN |Gonorrhea

