

Gonorrhoea

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Health

Why in News?

A study on gonorrhoea was published in the July-December 2024 issue of the Indian Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS.

- **Gonorrhoea** - It is a sexually transmitted infection.
- **Caused by** - Bacterium ***Neisseria gonorrhoeae***.
- **Sites of infection** - Urogenital, pharyngeal, rectal, and conjunctival mucosa.
- **Transmission** - It is primarily through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex.
- **Global Burden** - According to the WHO, an estimated 82.4 million new infections were diagnosed among adults aged 15 to 49 years globally in 2020.
- It is also reported that gonococcal infections have been higher in men than in women since 2013.
- **Causes** - The common cause is unprotected vaginal, oral or anal sex.
- **Other factors** include chemical irritants, trauma (from intercourse or cervical procedures) are other causes, yeast infections, and allergic reactions (to spermicides, latex condoms, diaphragms, IUDs).
- **Symptoms**
 - **Men** - Burning urination, pus-like discharge, itching/tenderness at the penis tip, sometimes blood in urine.
 - **Women** - It is often asymptomatic; when present, abnormal vaginal discharge (yellow/grey/pus-like), pain during intercourse, bleeding between periods, pelvic pain, and frequent urination.
- **Complications if untreated** - For women, it results in fallopian tube scarring leading to infertility or ectopic pregnancy.
- For newborns, it causes eye infection (ophthalmia neonatorum), risk of blindness, sepsis, arthritis, and meningitis.
- **Diagnosis** - It is diagnosed by detecting the bacteria through urine or swab tests, with the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) considered the most accurate method.
- **Treatment** - As per the guidelines of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), India -
 - Antibiotic - **Ceftriaxone 500 mg** IM, single dose.
 - Abstain from sex for 7 days post-treatment and until symptoms resolve.
 - Additional screening for HIV, chlamydia, and syphilis.
 - If symptoms persist (3-5 days), a culture test to check for antimicrobial resistance.

- For pregnant women, Prenatal screening is crucial to prevent neonatal transmission.

Reference

[The Hindu | All you need to know about: gonorrhoea](#)

