

LYMPHOMAGRANULOMA VENEREUM OR LGV

What is LGV?

LGV is a sexually transmitted infection caused by special types of chlamydia. It is caused by a bacteria as is regular chlamydia, but LGV causes a much more serious illness. It has been previously found in tropical countries. Since 2004, some cases were reported in the US and in certain European countries. In 2005, it has been reported in Canada. To date, LGV in Canada and the US has appeared in men having sex with men (MSM).

How is LGV transmitted?

- unprotected oral, vaginal and anal sex (including unprotected fisting and sharing of dildos).

What are the signs of LGV?

- 3—30 days after unprotected sex, a small, painless bump will appear and may cause an **ulcer** in the vagina, penis, rectum or cervix. *It could also go unnoticed.*
- 2—6 wks later—the person may develop a low-grade fever, chills, malaise, muscle aches, joint aches or more serious illnesses.
- Some people will develop an **abcess** in the groin, rectum or anus. Swollen lymph glands in the neck may develop from oral sex.
- Some people may have a discharge of blood, pus or mucous from the anus.
- Chronic, untreated LGV---- sores which do not heal well can lead to long term problems.

Where and how can I get tested ?

- A swab of the sore is done usually at your family doctor (or the emergency room if no family doctor)
- A swab of the area---rectum, vagina, urethra
- Culture of the fluid in one of the abscesses
- Specimens will often need to be sent to a laboratory in Winnipeg.

Treatment

Antibiotics are used to treat persons with LGV. The antibiotic must be taken for 3 weeks.

Treatment of partners

Any sexual partners from the last 60 days need to be contacted and treated. Treatment is also with antibiotics but for a shorter period of time.

How to protect yourself from LGV

- Use condoms every time you have sex and make sure you use them correctly.
- Decrease number of sexual partners and high risk sexual activities such as sex with anonymous partners.
- Regular testing for other STIs (having other STIs may make one more susceptible to LGV)
- Refrain from drugs and alcohol. An impaired judgement brings about high risk behaviors.

For further information, contact your local Public health Office. In Region 2, call 658-5188.

Sites for the Public Health Agency of Canada:

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/lgv_e.html

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/lgv/index.html>