

# CERVICAL SCREENING

A SIMPLE TEST THAT  
COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE



The Cervical Screening Test looks for HPV, the virus which can cause cervical cancer. If you have a cervix, are between 25 and 74 and have ever been sexually active you should get tested. Even if you have not been sexually active recently, or have been in a long term monogamous relationship, HPV can be dormant and become active again so testing is still important.

This includes women who are same sex attracted and people who identify as transgender.

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## OPENING HOURS

Please contact our reception staff on 02 6247 3077 or visit [shfpact.org.au](http://shfpact.org.au) for SHFPACT clinic hours

## LOCATION

SHFPACT is conveniently located in the city.

Level 1,  
28 University Avenue  
Canberra ACT 2601

## CONTACT

02 6247 3077  
[shfpact@shfpact.org.au](mailto:shfpact@shfpact.org.au)

## ENGAGE

[shfpact.org.au](http://shfpact.org.au)  
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## DONATE

All donations to SHFPACT over \$2.00 are tax deductible

## SHFPACT CLINICAL SERVICES

- Contraceptive advice, information and services
- IUDs and other long acting contraceptive options
- Cervical screening
- Canberra Menopause Centre
- Unplanned Pregnancy Counselling Service
- Sexually transmissible infections (STIs): testing, treatment and advice
- Blood borne virus and HIV testing
- Emergency contraception (the 'Morning After' Pill)
- Breast checks and breast awareness education
- Fertility issues and pre-conception advice
- Sexual difficulties and sexuality education
- PrEP information, advice, and prescriptions

SHFPACT is a health promotion charity (HPC) assisted with funding from the ACT Government.



Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT  
Level 1, 28 University Ave, Canberra City  
Call 02 6247 3077

**[shfpact.org.au](http://shfpact.org.au)**

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I'M ALL ABOUT  
**MYCOPLASMA  
GENITALIUM**

## What is Mycoplasma Genitalium?

Mycoplasma genitalium is a bacterium that can cause infection of the cervix, urethra (penis), and anus. It is a sexually transmissible infection and is like chlamydia, but less common.

### How do you get it?

You can get mycoplasma genitalium by having anal or vaginal sex without a condom with someone who has the infection. Some people may not have any symptoms but can still pass on the infection.

### What are the symptoms?

There are often no symptoms with mycoplasma genitalium. If symptoms do occur they include:

If you have a vagina:

- Lower abdominal pain or discomfort
- Pain while having sex
- Unusual vaginal bleeding (between periods or after sex)
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Pain or burning passing urine

If you have a penis:

- Discharge from the penis
- Pain or burning passing urine

If you have an anal infection:

- Discharge and bleeding from the anus
- Pain or burning around the anus

### When do you test for Mycoplasma Genitalium?

Testing for mycoplasma genitalium is only recommended when you have symptoms such as those listed above and tests for other sexually transmissible infections are negative.

Routine testing is not recommended if you have no symptoms, unless you have had a sexual partner recently diagnosed with a mycoplasma genitalium infection.

### How do you test for Mycoplasma Genitalium?

- If you have a vagina, the test is a vaginal swab, a swab from the cervix, or a urine sample.
- If you have a penis, the test is a urine sample.
- If you have a rectal infection, the test is a rectal swab.

## How do you treat It?

Mycoplasma genitalium is treated with two courses of antibiotics. This cures most infections. However, it can be difficult to treat. This is because the antibiotics used do not always work (this is called antibiotic resistance). If this is the case, you may need to see a medical specialist and have treatment with different antibiotics. Occasionally the different antibiotics do not work, and a cure may not be achievable.

It is important to avoid any sex without a condom until you and your partner have been treated and have both had a negative follow-up test for mycoplasma genitalium.

### Do I need a follow up test after treatment?

Yes, a follow up test is done 2 weeks after treatment is completed to make sure the infection has gone, and another test is advised three months later to make sure that you have not been re-infected.

### What happens if I have symptoms and I don't get treatment?

If you have a vagina, have symptoms and mycoplasma is left untreated, in about 5 % of cases the infection can extend to the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes, causing pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). Pelvic inflammatory disease can cause infertility. If infection occurs during pregnancy mycoplasma genitalium can be associated with miscarriage and pre-term delivery.

### Should I tell my sexual partners if I am diagnosed with Mycoplasma Genitalium?

Yes, all sexual partners from the past six months should be contacted, tested, and treated. You can do this yourself or there are websites that can help you to do it anonymously. Your doctor or nurse can help you with this.

### How do I avoid getting Mycoplasma Genitalium?



The best way to prevent mycoplasma genitalium is by using condoms or dams every time you have vaginal or anal sex. For great tips on using condoms, check out SHFPACT's condom fact sheet.

References: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre: Mycoplasma Genitalium. [mshc.org.au](http://mshc.org.au)  
Australian STI Management Guidelines for use in Primary Care: Mycoplasma Genitalium. [sti.guidelines.org.au](http://sti.guidelines.org.au)

IT'S EASY TO GET A

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WE ARE MAKING OUR SERVICES MORE AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE



## WHAT DO YOU GET AS A MEMBER?

- Special members discount rates for consultations at SHFPACT clinic and Canberra Menopause Centre.
- 5% discount on bookshop purchases.
- Free or discounted attendance at health information and special events. For example: Healthy Menopause Information Evenings by the Canberra Menopause Centre, Parent Information Evenings about communicating with your children and young people about puberty, relationships, etc.
- SHFPACT members enews that will keep you updated with special members events, activities and other services.

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