

# Expedited Partner Therapy: GONORRHEA

## Why do I need this medicine?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex (oral, vaginal or anal) with a person who already has it. Many people with gonorrhea do not know they have it because they feel okay and do not have any symptoms. You have been exposed, but there is help.

- Gonorrhea is easily treated with the medicines cefixime (Suprax®) and azithromycin (Zithromax®).
- Your partner may have given you pills or a prescription for cefixime and azithromycin. This medicine was given to your partner by a health care provider for your treatment. If your partner gave you a prescription, take it to a pharmacy to have it filled, usually for \$10 or less.

## Is the medicine safe?

The medicine is very safe. However, you should talk to your doctor or visit your local health department clinic if you have any of the issues listed below **BEFORE TAKING THE MEDICINE:**



- You know you are pregnant or think you are pregnant.
- You have lower belly pain, pain with sex, vomiting or fever (females only).
- You have pain or swelling in the testicles (balls) or fever.
- You have painful and swollen joints or have a rash all over your body.
- You have ever had a reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic symptoms after taking cefixime, azithromycin or other antibiotics. **Please check with your doctor before taking these pills if you are allergic to any antibiotic.**
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart or liver disease.
- You are currently taking other prescription drugs, including medicine for diabetes. It is okay to take cefixime and azithromycin with non-prescription pain or cold medicines, vitamins and/or birth control pills.

## How do I take the Medicine?

- You have been given 400 mg of cefixime and 1 gram (500 mg tablets x 2, or 250 mg tablets x 4) of azithromycin. Take ALL pills with water by mouth at one time.
- Take these pills with food. Do NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Rolaids, or Maalox) for one (1) hour before or two (2) hours after taking the pills.
- Do not share or give the cefixime and azithromycin to anyone else. You must take ALL pills to treat the infection completely.
- Do not have sex for the next 7 days: it takes 7 days for the medicine to cure gonorrhea. If you have unprotected sex during the 7 days after taking the medicine, you can still pass the infection to your sex partners.
- We recommend getting tested in 3 months to make sure you have not been re-infected.

## What are the side effects?

- This medicine may cause an upset stomach, diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting, however it should not last long. If these symptoms persist or IF you develop a rash or fever, contact your health care provider.
- Serious allergic reactions can include difficulty breathing, tightness in the chest, closing of the throat, swelling of lips or tongue, or hives (itchy bumps or welts on the skin). If you experience any of these signs or symptoms, call 911.

**For additional information or to schedule an appointment,  
please contact your local health department:**

Southern Nevada Health District, (702) 759-0708, <http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/std-clinic>  
Carson City Health and Human Services, (775) 887-2195, <http://gethealthycarsoncity.org>  
Washoe County Health Department, (775) 328-2470, <http://www.co.washoe.nv.us/health>