



Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
**Division of Disease Control**

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***Health Advisory***  
**Revised Treatment Guidelines for Uncomplicated Gonorrhea Cases**  
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In December 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released its new Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Treatment Guidelines, 2010. Included in these guidelines are revised recommendations for the treatment of uncomplicated gonorrheal infection of the cervix, urethra, rectum, and pharynx. Due to emerging resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and the difficulty of eradicating pharyngeal gonorrhea, the CDC and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health now recommend dual therapy with ceftriaxone plus either azithromycin or doxycycline, even if the patient has a negative test for Chlamydia. The revised recommendations are as follows:

**Uncomplicated gonococcal infection of the cervix, urethra, and rectum**

**Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM** in a single dose

OR, if not an option

**Cefixime 400 mg po** in a single dose

OR

Single-dose injectable cephalosporin regimens

PLUS

**Azithromycin 1 g po** in a single dose

OR

**Doxycycline 100 mg po** twice daily for 7 days

**Uncomplicated gonococcal infection of the pharynx**

**Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM** in a single dose

PLUS

**Azithromycin 1 g po** in a single dose

OR

**Doxycycline 100 mg po** twice daily for 7 days

Allergic reactions to first-generation cephalosporins occur in 5-10% of those with documented penicillin allergy and occur less frequently with third-generation cephalosporins; therefore, cephalosporins should be contraindicated only in those with a history of severe penicillin allergy such as anaphylaxis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, or toxic epidermal necrolysis. Pregnant women can be safely treated with ceftriaxone and azithromycin.

Patients should be instructed to abstain from sex until 7 days after treatment is complete or until they no longer have symptoms. All sex partners of persons diagnosed with gonorrhea, Chlamydia, syphilis, or HIV should be referred for evaluation and treatment. For questions about or help with diagnosis, treatment, and partner management of gonorrhea and other STDs, please call the STD Control Program at (215) 685-6737.

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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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