Granuloma Inguinale, Donovanosis

Granuloma Inguinale is an infection caused by germs (*bacteria*). It may be transmitted sexually through vaginal and anal intercourse. It may also spread through close, long-standing non-sexual contact. This disease causes painless ulcers of the genitalia and anal areas in both males and females. Secondary infections may occur. It may also cause lumps (*nodules*) and breaks in the skin (*ulcerations*) in the groin.These show up in the perineal and anal areas.

This is most often a sexually transmitted infection. You are also at risk for other sexually transmitted diseases (STD). This includes Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and HIV (AIDS). Testing may be done for the other STDs if one disease is detected.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms appear 1 to 12 weeks after coming in contact with the bacteria.

- Red bumps (*nodules*) appear on the genital and anal areas. They are usually are painless.
- Ulcers develop in the genital and anal areas.
- It slowly spreads and destroys the genital tissue and may spread to the legs.
- The genitals and surrounding area loses the skin color.

DIAGNOSIS

- Examination of the lesion in the genital or anal area is done. If the lesions have been there for a long time or are spreading, that shows a strong indication that it is Granuloma Inguinale.
- Scrapings and removing a piece of tissue from the lesion (*biopsy*) may be done.
- Other lab tests are done for research and are not routinely available.

TREATMENT

Immediate treatment of this disease lowers the risk of destroying and scarring the genitals and skin tissue.

- It can be treated with medications that kill germs (*antibiotics*).
- Treatment can take 3 weeks of antibiotics or longer.
- Treatment continues until the lesions disappear.
- Follow-up examination is necessary because recurrence often happens.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Finish all medication as prescribed. Stopping treatment before you are finished will put you at risk for continued infection. If one STD is discovered, often treatment will be started to cover other possible infections.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- **Do not** have sex until treatment is completed. You should have follow up medical care. Your sexual contacts should be examined. Treatment is needed even if you are symptom free or have negative tests. Your caregiver will help determine this.
- Practice safe sex (use male or female condoms) during sexual intercourse.

SEEK MEDICAL CAE IF:

- You came in contact with some one who has Granulma Inguinale or think they may have it.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOU DEVELOP:

- An oral temperature above 100° F (37.8° C) which lasts for 2 days or longer and and is not controlled by medications.
- You develop red bumps or ulceration of the genital and anal areas. This is a Painless disease as stated above.
- You develop loss of skin color in the genital area.

TEST RESULTS

Not all test results are available during your visit. If your test results are not back during the visit, make an appointment with your caregiver to find out the results. Do not assume everything is normal if your have not heard from your caregiver or the medical facility. It is important for you to follow up on all of your test results.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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