

Luv Bugs **LGV is a bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a type of chlamydia.**

LGV is a serious bacterial infection that can be found on the genitals, anus, rectum, penis, mouth/oral cavity and lymph nodes.

An STI check-up is the only way to find out if you have an infection.

Get a free check-up at **GMHS STI Clinic**, Baggot Street, the **GUIDE Clinic**, St. James's Hospital or your nearest STI Clinic – see www.man2man.ie

LGV can be treated and cured with specific antibiotics.

{Following treatment for LGV, you can be re-infected if you are exposed to that STI again}.

LGV Symptoms

Symptoms might show between 3 days and 3 weeks after exposure, such as:

- **Anus/Rectum:** painless blisters/sores. Rectal inflammation (proctitis) is the most common presentation of LGV (discharge and blood from the rectum; pain in the rectum; a feeling that you need to open your bowels all the time (tenesmus); constipation or diarrhoea).
- **Penis:** painless blisters/sores, discharge, swelling in the groin.
- **Mouth:** sore throat, swelling of glands.

Symptoms can become more severe if left untreated resulting in lymph node infection.

LGV Symptoms

Untreated LGV can cause serious damage to the rectum, and in some rare cases to the penis, which may require surgery.

Some symptoms can be similar to those of other STIs and infections so it is important to get tested regularly if you are sexually active.

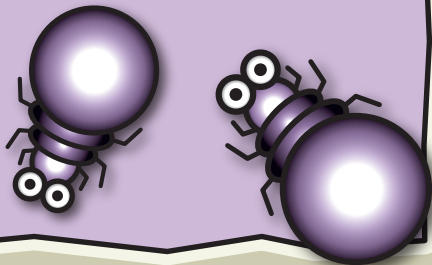
You can also have LGV and not have any symptoms, or symptoms may go unnoticed.

How is LGV passed on?

The most common sexual activities associated with LGV transmission are unprotected receptive anal sex and fisting.

You can get LGV through:

- Unprotected anal sex (ejaculation does not have to happen).
- Fisting.
- Sharing fingers.
- Sharing sex toys.
- Unprotected oral sex.
- Rimming.



LGV transmission may be prevented by safer sex practices.

- Use condoms for anal and oral sex (and change condoms between partners).
- Use latex gloves for fingering and fisting (and change gloves between partners).
- Do not share dildos or other sex toys (and clean thoroughly between partners).

The best way to prevent LGV transmission is to get tested, and if required, treated.

If you are sexually active go for a regular STI check-up.

When testing ensure you get a full screen that includes rectal and throat swabs.

LGV and HIV

In Ireland and other countries, a high number of men diagnosed with LGV are also living with HIV. If you are living with HIV and are sexually active, it's important to have an STI check up at least every six months.

If you experience any of the symptoms listed, arrange a check-up with your HIV treatment clinic if you attend one, or go to the clinics listed below or your nearest STI clinic.

Having LGV, or any other STI, can increase the chances of getting or passing on HIV.



LGV is easily diagnosed and easily treated. Free STI testing is available at:



GMHS STI Clinic (www.gmhs.ie)

Baggot St. Hospital, Dublin 4. Walk-in clinics every Tues & Wed - Doors open 5:00pm to 6:30pm.
Tel: 01 669 9553 SMS: 087 941 0934

GUIDE Clinic (www.guideclinic.ie)

St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8. Walk-in clinics on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays. Check website for times or telephone 01 416 2315.

Find nearest STI/GUM clinic at www.man2man.ie

www.Man2Man.ie

For more information on STIs and HIV in Arabic, English, French, Irish, Mandarin, Portuguese, Polish, Spanish, and Russian.

Sexual Health Information and Support

Gay Switchboard Ireland 01 872 1055 (seven days a week)
Email: ask@ghn.ie



Fedhlmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive