

# Non-specific urethritis (NSU) and Cervicitis

NSU is the term used to describe swelling or inflammation of the urethra (the tube inside the penis) after other specific infections have been tested for, such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea. Cervicitis is the female equivalent of NSU.

## Causes

NSU and Cervicitis can be caused by a number of different organisms, including sexually transmissible infections.

## Symptoms

Symptoms can include irritation when passing urine or discharge from the penis or vagina. Females may also experience lower abdominal pain or pain during sex.

## How is it transmitted?

NSU and Cervicitis can be passed on through unprotected vaginal, anal and oral sex.

## How do I know if I have it?

Testing for NSU and Cervicitis involves a swab from the cervix and/or urethra.

## Treatment/Management

Treatment for NSU and Cervicitis involves a course of antibiotics. All sexual partners should also be tested and treated. Sex should be avoided until the treatment is complete.

## Why is treatment important?

If left untreated, NSU and Cervicitis can lead to infertility in both men and women. In males it can also lead to prostatitis (inflammation of the prostate gland) and epididymitis (inflammation of the testicles).

## Prevention

Using condoms and dams reduces the risk of catching NSU or Cervicitis.

**Practising safe sex reduces the risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmissible infections (STIs).**

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