

# Clinical presentation of asymptomatic and symptomatic women who tested positive for genital gonorrhoea at a sexual health service in Melbourne, Australia

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## Background:

Gonorrhoea cases in women have been rising in urban Australian cities in the 2010s. Literature on genital gonorrhoea symptomatology in women is sparse, and most studies were conducted using culture rather than nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT). We aimed to estimate the proportion of genital gonorrhoea cases that were asymptomatic and symptomatic among women using NAAT.

## Methods:

This cross-sectional study described the characteristics of genital gonorrhoea in women attending the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre between August 2017 and August 2018. Descriptive analyses were conducted for all gonorrhoea cases including demographic characteristics, recent sexual practices, reported genital symptoms and duration.

## Results:

Genital gonorrhoea was detected in 142 (1.1%) of the 12,869 clinic visits. Almost half of the cases were asymptomatic, 47.9% (95% CI: 39.8-56.1%); purulent vaginal discharge was present in 11.3% (95% CI: 7.0-17.6%) and other genital symptoms in 40.8% (95% CI: 33.1-49.1%) of the cases. The mean time between last sexual contact and the onset of symptoms was 7.3 (standard deviation [SD] 4.4 days) and between the onset of symptoms to presentation to the clinic was 12.1 days (SD 14.6).

## Conclusion:

Among women presenting to a sexual health service half of the cases of genital gonorrhoea were asymptomatic. These would have been missed by testing only symptomatic women. Further efforts must be made to promote gonorrhoea screening among women.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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