Key facts about LGV

LGV is a sexually transmitted disease spread by certain strains (or serovars) of Chlamydia bacteria called L1, L2 and L3.

Initial infection with these bacteria causes a small, raised lesion within the penis or rectum which is painless. This lesion can turn into an ulcer within three days to one month. Common signs/symptoms associated with LGV include:

- swollen lymph nodes in the groin
- bleeding from the anus

Lab tests specific for LGV are not routinely available, although tests for Chlamydia from samples taken from a lesion or the rectum can help support a diagnosis of LGV.

Treatment for LGV is essential; otherwise, the infection can spread and damage lymph nodes and the intestines, causing scarring. The American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following antibiotics for treatment:

- doxycycline, 100 mg taken twice daily for 21 days, or alternatively
- erythromycin 500 mg, four times daily for 21 days

Erythromycin has the potential to interact with other medications, including two classes of anti-HIV drugs—protease inhibitors and non-nukes (non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors).

Some specialists believe that another antibiotic, azithromycin (Zithromax), taken in a dose of 1 gram once weekly for three consecutive weeks, is effective against LGV. However, the CDC points out that there are no data from controlled clinical trials to support such a conclusion.

REFERENCE:

Disclaimer

Decisions about particular medical treatments should always be made in consultation with a qualified medical practitioner knowledgeable about HIV- and hepatitis C-related illness and the treatments in question.

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