

**LGV CAN CAUSE  
MAJOR INFLAMMATION  
INSIDE THE ARSE.**

**MOST AT RISK ARE  
MEN FUCKING WITHOUT  
CONDOMS OR FISTING  
WITHOUT LATEX GLOVES.**

**EASILY TREATED  
WITH ANTIBIOTICS.**

**LEFT UNTREATED CAN END  
IN SERIOUS DAMAGE TO  
THE ARSE AND GENITALS.**

**LGV**

**A NEW FACE ON THE SCENE**

The HIV & AIDS charity for life

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## WHAT IS LGV?

LGV stands for 'lymphogranuloma venereum'. It's a sexually transmitted infection caused by a certain type of chlamydia bacteria. It's started to spread among gay men so we need to be looking out for it.

## IS THIS NEW?

It's common in places like Africa, Asia and the Caribbean but was very rare in the UK. There have now been outbreaks among gay men in some European cities (especially in the Netherlands, Belgium and France). And some gay men in the UK have recently been diagnosed with LGV.

## WHO GETS LGV?

So far the infection's been seen mostly in gay men who:

- **FUCK OR GET FUCKED WITHOUT CONDOMS**
- **FIST WITHOUT GLOVES**
- **HAVE LOTS OF SEXUAL PARTNERS**
- **GO TO SEX PARTIES, SEX CLUBS OR SAUNAS**

Most of the men infected so far have been HIV positive.

## HOW IS LGV PASSED ON?

The bacteria get into someone's body through the warm moist skin of the mouth, cock or inside of the arse. **Fucking without condoms** and **fisting without gloves** are the easiest way this happens. Using things like dildos on more than one man's arse could spread LGV too.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET LGV?

Most gay men getting LGV recently had the infection inside their arse, causing major inflammation there. But LGV has three stages.

**STAGE 1:** Three days to three weeks after getting infected there may be a small, painless sore where the bacteria got into your mouth, cock or inside your arse. Many people don't get a sore or don't notice it. If infected in your cock you might get a discharge or pain on pissing. You will be able to give LGV to others from this point until you get treated.

**STAGE 2:** 10-30 days later (or even longer) your glands may become painfully swollen. You might feel ill and have a fever.

**LGV in the arse** - You can get painful inflammation in your arse (called 'proctitis') and blood or pus coming from it. Shitting may be painful, you might get constipated or develop painful abscesses/ulcers in the arse. You'll feel ill and may get a fever.

**LGV in the cock** - You might get a discharge, the glands in your groin can swell - so much that they might push through your skin and leak fluid.

**LGV in the mouth** - If infected through the mouth or throat, glands in your neck or armpit may swell.

**STAGE 3:** Left untreated LGV will later go on to cause serious problems. Haemorrhoid-like growths can appear, your cock and balls can swell massively and the inside of your arse can be seriously damaged; you may need to have surgery.

## CAN LGV BE CURED?

As long as it's treated before it gets to the third stage, LGV is quickly cured with 3 weeks of antibiotics and leaves no lasting damage.

## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

There's no vaccine and if you've had LGV once you can get it again. Condoms reduce the chances of getting LGV, as do latex gloves during fisting. If several men are being fucked or fisted in the same session, condoms and gloves should be changed with each man (to stop the infection being spread from man to man). Dildos etc should not be used on more than one arse in one sex session - or should be covered with a condom that can be changed with each arse it's used on.

If you have LGV, samples will test positive for chlamydia but more tests will be needed to be sure if you have LGV and not the more common type of chlamydia. GUM (sexual health) clinics are now looking for LGV and will be able to tell if you have it. A check-up is crucial if you have any symptoms of inflammation inside your arse - or in your cock. Sex should be avoided until you've been checked.

## WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Having LGV makes it easier for you to pick up or pass on HIV because of the bleeding and skin damage LGV causes. It also puts you at higher risk for other STIs like Hepatitis C (a serious liver disease), syphilis and other infections.