LYMPHOGRANULOMA VENEREUM (LGV)

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) mainly affecting men. It is characterised by small painless lumps around the genital and anal region. Prevention includes the use of condoms, while treatment involves a course of antibiotics to clear the infection.

About

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) caused by C. trachomatis serovars, mainly affecting men. The mode of transmission is through oral, vaginal or anal sexual contact, without using condom.

Signs & Symptoms

Symptoms appear in 3 days to 30 days post exposure to the infection and is characterised by small painless lumps or sores around penis, vagina, cervix, anus and mouth. The lumps often recover after a few days.

The infection can spread to the lymph glands situated around pelvis or anal region with the following symptoms:

- Fever with chills
- Loss of weight
- Soreness of muscles and joints

In case, the infection spreads to the anal region, the following symptoms are noticed:

- Discharge of pus or blood
- Constipation or Diarrhoea
- Cramps and pain in the lower abdomen
- Urgent need to pass stools but unable to do so
- Scarring of the affected area

Prevention

LGV and other STDs can be prevented by using condoms. Sexual intercourse should be avoided with the partner till the treatment is complete.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis usually involves examination of the affected area and taking a swab of the sore, which is sent for laboratory examination.

Treatment

Treatment includes an antibiotic course to clear the infection. In cases where the lymph nodes have become swollen and painful, they are drained. The infection is usually cleared in 3 weeks time.

All medications should be taken under the guidance of a registered medical practitioner.