

# “Can you tell me what you know about G?”



“Can you tell me what you know about G?” I asked one of my male friends. I was sure he wouldn’t have a clue. I was ready for his incredulous look and him referring to G as the latest Latin dance or the new food trend invading top notched restaurants. After a long silence (I was “ah ah gotcha!”). Here he is announcing me the main facts about G:

“I know it’s an STI you can catch through unprotected sex (anal or vaginal), and unprotected oral sex. I think the treatment is an injection and then antibiotics over a week or more. I’m not really sure what it looks like, but in men, we can have pus coming from our penis. It was called the clap. One reason is if you clapped really hard on both sides of your penis or banged your penis on a hard surface it helped the pus to be ejected away.”

Charming images of flows of pus coming from a penis occurred all of a sudden in my head. Instruction to self: remove this thought out of your head now!!

I was quite impressed about the amount of information he already knew about G.

As for me, the first time I heard about G was at the sexual health centre. As a sex worker I’m aware of the multitudes of STIs that I can be exposed to. We are more afraid of HIV, herpes, chlamydia. But G shouldn’t be discarded and now holds its place among these STIs front runners.

Unfortunately, nowadays competition prevails more than ever in the sex industry. Condoms are accessories which can be easily forgotten.

“I’m clean. Can we do all natural?” is a request that I often receive.

Of course as a sex worker we do know that we are not the first girl he has been in contact with. If we offer

some natural services, we know we expose ourselves to his bacterial history that he carries with him. It’s a very risky leap of faith.

Every three months, I go for my sexual health check ups. The nurse lectures me on the risks I’m taking if I provide natural services. It’s quite unfair to have to face these reprimands all alone, whereas dozens of men request natural.

But here I am, doing my duty of care for myself and my clients, on this chair waiting to be tested. Some people are scared of needles and the speculum deeply inserted into your vagina is not a pleasant experience, but I can still deal with it. What I found the most unpleasant is actually the G throat swab! It’s only a long cotton bud brushing the back of your throat! I know that doesn’t sound like a painful experience right? It just always gives me the impression I’m going to vomit on the nurse’s face as she sticks this dry swab along my tonsils. Then one week later, the results arrive. If the G diagnosis is here, you come back to the clinic for some antibiotics. It seems so simple.

The best option is to practice safe sex (oral, vaginal and anal) at all times. It’s important to be respectful and kind towards ourselves and our body. Get your regular check ups, listen attentively to all the useful advice given by the health professional and make sensible choices to live a healthy sexual life.