



Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV)

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is a systemic, sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a type of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (serovars L1, L2, or L3) that rarely occurs in the United States and other industrialized countries. However, recent outbreaks of LGV proctitis have been reported among men who have sex with men (MSM) in The Netherlands (MMWR Oct. 29, 2004) and other European countries. The MMWR article describes The Netherlands' LGV outbreak, clinical signs and symptoms of LGV, and CDC's 2002 STD Treatment Guidelines for LGV.

Using LGV testing technology not commercially available (LGV genotyping), CDC has assisted state and local health departments in identifying patients with LGV in cities across the United States. The majority of patients with LGV proctitis in the U.S. have been HIV-infected MSM. In states that lack laboratory capacity to perform LGV diagnostic testing, specimens may be submitted to CDC's Chlamydia Laboratory for testing. If you are a clinician with patients with symptoms consistent with LGV [mucoid /purulent anal discharge, rectal bleeding, constipation, inguinal/femoral lymphadenopathy (buboes), genital or rectal ulcer or papule, anal spasms, and/or tenesmus], please contact your state and local health departments and CDC, and follow the procedures for collection and shipment of specimens (attached).

At CDC, specimens will be tested for *C. trachomatis* and, if positive, will be genotyped for the identification of LGV. Serology will only be performed in conjunction with specimens tested directly for LGV (e.g. rectal swabs). Please complete a clinical information form for each patient suspected of having LGV. Specimens submitted without the clinical form will not be processed.

If you have patients you suspect of having LGV, or have questions about LGV, please contact both your state and local health departments. Thank you in advance for your efforts to assist in the prompt identification and control of LGV in the United States.

For updated information on LGV, please see the CDC's Division of STD Prevention's website at www.cdc.gov/std/lgv