

Disseminated Gonococcal Infection (DGI) Working Case Definition

Disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI) occurs when the sexually transmitted pathogen *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* invades the bloodstream and spreads to distant sites in the body. Currently, there is no CSTE case definition for DGI and these cases are reported to CDC as part of routine surveillance for gonococcal infections.

Clinical Description

Clinical manifestations of DGI include septic arthritis, polyarthralgia, tenosynovitis, petechial/pustular skin lesions, bacteremia, or, on rare occasions, endocarditis or meningitis.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Isolation or detection of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

- From a disseminated site of infection (e.g., skin, synovial fluid, blood, or cerebrospinal fluid[CSF]) by culture

- OR

- From a mucosal site (e.g., urogenital, rectal, or pharyngeal) by culture or nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)

Case Classification

Suspect

In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, clinical suspicion of DGI without meeting laboratory criteria

Probable

Clinical manifestations of DGI AND isolation or detection of *N. gonorrhoeae* from a mucosal site

Confirmed

Isolation of *N. gonorrhoeae* from a disseminated site of infection (e.g., skin, synovial fluid, blood, or CSF)