

Chlamydia Fact Sheet

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can infect men and women. It can be cured easily, but if left untreated can make it difficult for woman to become pregnant. It can be tested through urine and/or anal, vaginal, and pharyngeal (throat) swabs at the Lenawee County Health Department.

How is Chlamydia Spread?

Chlamydia is spread by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who is already infected. Chlamydia can be spread by a male or female partner, and can also be passed to a baby during childbirth. You can be re-infected with chlamydia after you have already had it, even if it was treated.

Symptoms of Chlamydia

Most people who have chlamydia do not have any symptoms. If symptoms appear it could take several weeks after having a sexual encounter with an infected partner.

Symptoms for Females:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- A burning sensation when urinating
- Vaginal bleeding between periods

Symptoms for Males:

- A discharge from the penis
- A burning sensation when urinating
- A pain and swelling in one or both testicles (less common)

Symptoms for Men and Women that has been infected with chlamydia in the rectum:

- Rectal Pain
- Discharge
- Bleeding

Reducing the Risk

Having unprotected sex is a high risk activity, so is having sex with multiple partners. If you are sexually active and want to reduce the risk of getting chlamydia, commit to a long-term mutually monogamous relationship. Talk with your partner and get tested for chlamydia (yearly if you are under 25 years of age) and other STIs. You should know your partner's STI/HIV status. Also, correctly **using latex condoms or dental dams** (for oral sex) **every time** can help stop you from getting an STI infection.

Pregnancy and Chlamydia

You can pass this infection to your baby during delivery. This can result in eye infections or pneumonia in the newborn. Chlamydia infections may cause early delivery.

Treating Chlamydia:

- Visit your local health care provider
- Finish the medication (pills taken orally); take the medication exactly as you are told to
 - ◊ No intercourse until 7 days after treatment is complete. If you choose to have sex, keep in mind that condoms do not completely eliminate the risk of spreading chlamydia
 - ◊ Make sure all partners in the last 60 days are notified and treated
- Do not share medication
- Reinfections are common, so get tested again 3 months after finishing treatment
- If the infection is not treated, it can lead to PID, or pelvic inflammatory disease, which causes abdominal and pelvic pain in women. This can cause long-term pain, inability to have a baby, or an ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).

More Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm>

