

FACT SHEET

Chlamydia

What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease that can infect men and women. Chlamydia often has no symptoms but can lead to complications such as infertility.

How is it spread?

Chlamydia can be spread during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. It can also be passed from an infected mother to her unborn child during vaginal birth.

What are the symptoms?

Female Symptoms:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Burning with urination

Male Symptoms:

- Discharge from the penis
- Burning with urination
- Pain and swelling in one or both testicles

How can it be prevented?

- Abstinence from sexual activity is the best form of protection.
- Latex male condoms will also offer some protection against chlamydia.
- Being in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and known to be uninfected is another form of prevention.

How is it treated?

Contact your doctor for testing and treatment. Chlamydia can easily be treated and cured with antibiotics. Azithromycin or Doxycycline are the most common antibiotics used to treat chlamydia. Sexual contact should be avoided until after treatment has been completed. You should get retested three months after treatment to ensure you have not been re-infected.

Once diagnosed, make sure all recent sexual partners have been contacted and encouraged to seek treatment as well. All sex partners need to be evaluated and treated at the same time to avoid re-infection.

If chlamydia is left untreated it can result in ectopic pregnancy, infertility, and pelvic inflammatory disease. It is recommended that sexually active women should be screened at least annually.

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only and is not intended for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information contact your health care provider or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.

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