

## CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia (pronounced klaymid-ee-ah) is a very common sexually transmitted disease, and one of the more serious. It can spread silently in the female and cause a painful, long-term condition called PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) and infertility (the inability to have children). Pregnant women can pass this infection on to their babies who can then get infections of their eyes or lungs.

You can get chlamydia from vaginal and anal sex.

### The symptoms and signs

A young woman may never know she is infected with chlamydia until she has a test for it or decides to have a baby and has problems trying to become pregnant. For those who develop symptoms, these usually appear one to three weeks after sex with an infected person. Sometimes, the symptoms are so mild that a person may not notice them. Men sometimes have no symptoms and can spread it without knowing they have it. It is very important that chlamydia be treated right away. A new test is available. It's a urine test that is quick and reliable. If you are having sex and have taken **chances**, see a health professional or go to a clinic and ask for the test.

### What to look for



#### *Females:*

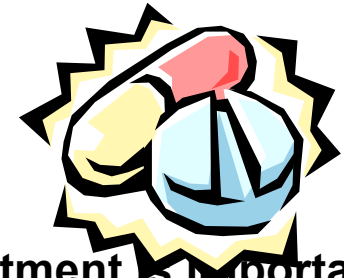
- a new or different discharge from the vagina
- a burning feeling when urinating
- a pain in the lower abdomen, sometimes with fever and chills
- pain during sex
- bleeding between periods
- bleeding after intercourse

#### *Males:*

- a watery or milky drip from the penis
- an itchy feeling inside the penis
- a burning feeling when urinating
- pain or swelling in the testicles

### How chlamydia is treated

Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics, taken by mouth (orally). You must get a prescription for the right antibiotic from your doctor. Don't borrow medicine from your friends.



### Treatment is important

Your doctor or nurse may ask you for the name of your partner or ask you to tell your partner so this STD will not be spread further. Make sure you take your medication until it is finished. Ask your doctor or nurse how soon after treatment you can have sexual intercourse.

If you have chlamydia and don't get treatment, this could


happen to you if you are female:

- you might develop a pain in your abdomen or belly that never seems to go away
- the infection will spread to all your reproductive organs and cause PID
- you may have problems later in life getting pregnant or during your pregnancy.

The long-term effects of chlamydia on males are not well known.



If you have any questions or problems about STDs, contact your local CLSC

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