



CHLAMYDIA

What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria called *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It is the most common bacterial STI.

How is it transmitted?

Chlamydia is transmitted during unprotected vaginal, anal and/or oral sex with an infected partner. You can transmit chlamydia without even knowing you are infected.

What are the symptoms?

Most people do not experience any symptoms of chlamydia. If symptoms do occur, they usually appear two to six weeks after exposure.

- A change or increase in discharge from the vagina
- Burning with urination
- Lower abdominal pain
- Pain and/or bleeding during intercourse
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Rectal pain and/or discharge
- Watery and/or milky discharge from the penis
- Burning and/or itching around the tip and/or inside of the penis
- Pain and/or swelling in the testes

How do I get tested?

- A swab may be taken from the cervix, urethra, throat and/or rectum.
- A urine test may also be done.
- Testing is the only way you will know if you have chlamydia.

How is it treated?

- Chlamydia can be easily treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Do not have sexual contact during treatment and for seven days after treatment.
- Make sure that your partner(s) is also treated before having any sexual activity.
- You can be re-infected after treatment.

Possible complications:

- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) – an infection in the fallopian tubes, uterus and ovaries
- Infertility (unable to get pregnant)

- Ectopic pregnancy (tubal pregnancy) Babies born to people who are infected with chlamydia could have severe eye infections or infant pneumonia
- Infection of the testes

Remember:

Any infection in the genital area may increase the risk of becoming infected with HIV. Practicing safer sex, by using latex or polyurethane condoms and/or oral dams for oral, anal or vaginal sex can reduce the risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections and blood borne infections (STBBIs).

Call the **Aids and Sexual Health Infoline** at 1-800-6682437 if you have questions or need help.

For more information:

www.sexandu.ca

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