

# FACT SHEET

# Chlamydia

## What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection 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 by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has chlamydia. It can also be passed from an infected mother to her unborn child during vaginal birth.

## What are the symptoms?

Chlamydia often has no symptoms. If a person has symptoms, they can include:

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

*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 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).*

## How can it be prevented?

- Abstinence from sexual activity is the best form of protection.
- Latex 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. Sexual contact is recommended to be avoided until after treatment has been completed. Also, you should consider getting retested three months after treatment to ensure you have not been re-infected.

Once diagnosed, contact all recent sexual partners, and encourage them to seek treatment as well. All sex partners are recommended 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 younger than 25 be screened at least annually. Others are also encouraged to be tested if at higher risk (have a new sexual partner or multiple partners).

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