

CHLAMYDIA

PERSONAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

What is Chlamydia?

*Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium **Chlamydia Trachomatis**.*

How is Chlamydia 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.

How is it treated?

Chlamydia can easily be treated and cured with antibiotics. Azithomycin or Doxycycline are the most common antibiotics used to treat Chlamydia. All sex partners need to be evaluated and treated at the same time to avoid reinfection. Sexual contact should be avoided until after treatment has been completed. 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.

How can we prevent Chlamydia?

Abstinence from sexual activity is the best form of protection. Latex male condoms will 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.

Symptoms of Chlamydia usually occur 1-3 weeks after exposure. It is possible to be infected with Chlamydia and not have any symptoms. Three quarters of infected females, and half of males have no symptoms.

SYMPTOMS OF CHLAMYDIA

Female symptoms:

- abnormal vaginal discharge
- burning with urination
- lower abdominal pain
- low back pain,
- nausea
- fever
- pain with intercourse
- bleeding between periods.

Male symptoms:

- discharge from the penis
- burning with urination
- burning or itching around the opening of the penis

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