



Indiana State Department of Health

Epidemiology Resource Center

Quick Facts

About...Chlamydia

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). You can get it from having sex (vaginal, anal, or oral) with someone who has Chlamydia. It can be cured with the right medicine.

What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Men may have a white or clear watery drip from the penis. Women may have more discharge (flow) from the vagina than usual. It may also burn or hurt to pee. You may have these signs one to three weeks after sex with someone who has Chlamydia. Later, women may also feel pain in the lower belly.

Many men and most women with Chlamydia don't have any signs at all. They don't know they are sick. But they can still give Chlamydia to anyone they have sex with.

How is Chlamydia spread?

Chlamydia is a serious disease. You can get it from having sex (vaginal, anal, or oral) with someone who has Chlamydia. If you don't get treated, it can spread in your body. Both men and women may not be able to have children. If you are pregnant, your baby can be born sick with Chlamydia.

Who is at risk for Chlamydia?

Anyone can get Chlamydia. You can get it from having sex (vaginal, anal, or oral) with someone who has Chlamydia. It is very common among teens and young adults. Young, sexually active females need testing every year.

How do I know if I have Chlamydia?

Go to a clinic or a doctor right away to get checked. If you have been exposed to someone with Chlamydia or you have symptoms that match those described below, your doctor may test you for Chlamydia.

How is Chlamydia treated?

If you have Chlamydia, you will be given medicine to take. Keep taking the medicine until it's all gone, even if you feel better. It takes one week for the medicine to cure the disease. Tell your sex partner(s) that they may have Chlamydia and need to get checked. Don't have sex until both you and your partner(s) are treated.

How can Chlamydia be prevented?

Abstinence (not having sex) is the best way to protect yourself from STDs and HIV/AIDS. If you have sex, using a latex condom (rubber) is the best way to protect yourself from STDs. Limit your number of sex partners. The more people you have sex with, the greater your chance of getting an STD. If you have sex with more than one partner, get an STD exam every 6 months.

All information presented is intended for public use. For more information and clinic locations call the National STD/HIV InfoLine at 1-800-CDC-INFO.

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