



# Chlamydia

## What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacteria *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 Chlamydia treated?

Chlamydia can easily be treated and cured with antibiotics. All sex partners need to be evaluated and treated at the same time to avoid re-infection. 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 (PID). It is recommended that sexually active women should be screened at least annually.

## How can Chlamydia be prevented?

Abstinence from sexual activity is the best form of protection. Latex 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:

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 infected males have no symptoms.

## Female Symptoms:


- Abnormal bleeding or vaginal discharge
- Burning with urination
- Lower abdominal and/or back pain-  
nausea
- Fever
- Pain with intercourse

## Male Symptoms:

- Discharge from the penis
- Burning with urination
- Burning or itching around the opening of the penis

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