



Can it be treated?

Yes! Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics. The type and duration of treatment will depend on the level and stage of infection.

GET TESTED!

Chlamydia can have very similar symptoms to Gonorrhoea, but they require different antibiotic treatments, so it is important to get tested and have a definitive diagnosis before beginning treatment.

However, both bacteria can show up in the same test, so your doctor may request for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea at the same time.

The test used is a culture, so it may take a few days to get the results. The sample can be from a swab or urine.

Practicing SAFE SEX and getting REGULAR SCREENING tests is important to maintain your good health & vitality.



Informing Patients Pamphlet series

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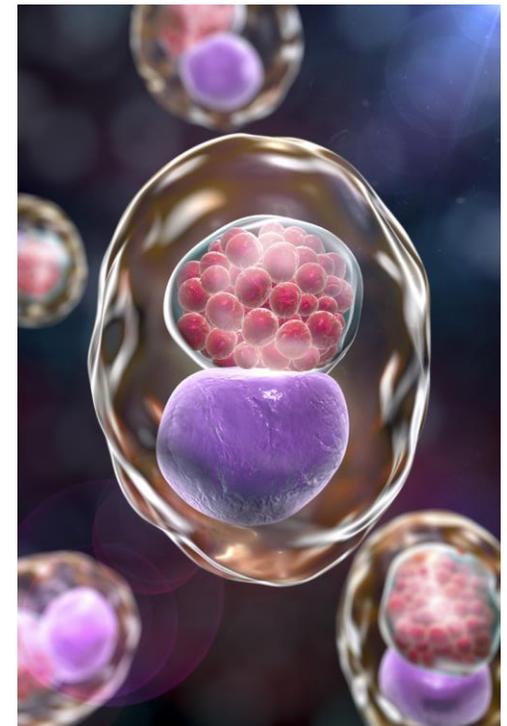
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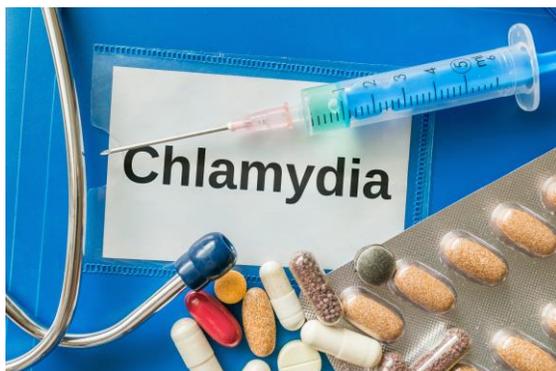
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CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia is a common STD that can infect both men and women. It can cause serious damage to a woman's reproductive system. This can make it difficult or impossible for her to get pregnant later on. Chlamydia can also cause a potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy that occurs outside the womb).

You can get chlamydia through unprotected (no condom) sexual contact including vaginal, oral and anal sex. Pregnant women can spread the bacteria to a baby during birth.





“Most people that have Chlamydia don’t show symptoms.”

What is Chlamydia?

Infection is caused by the bacteria *Chlamydia trachomatis* and is often called "the silent epidemic" because infections are common yet many people do not realize that they are infected. It is easily cured with antibiotics but can have serious health consequences if left untreated, including PID.

How do you get Chlamydia?

You can get chlamydia by having unprotected vaginal, anal, and oral sex. This means that you can get chlamydia in the throat and anus as well as the genitals. One simple way to protect yourself is by using a condom when engaging in these types of sexual contact.

An infected woman can give her baby chlamydia during childbirth.

What are the complications?

The initial damage that chlamydia causes often goes unnoticed. However, chlamydia can lead to serious health problems.

If you are a woman, untreated chlamydia can spread to your uterus and fallopian tubes (tubes that carry fertilized eggs from the ovaries to the uterus). This can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).

PID often has no symptoms, however some women may have abdominal and pelvic pain. Even if it doesn't cause symptoms initially, PID can cause permanent damage to your reproductive system. PID can lead to long-term pelvic pain, inability to get pregnant, and potentially deadly ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).

Men rarely have health problems linked to chlamydia. Infection sometimes spreads to the tube that carries sperm from the testicles, causing pain and fever. Rarely, chlamydia can prevent a man from being able to have children.

Untreated chlamydia may also increase your chances of getting or giving HIV – the virus that causes AIDS.

What are the symptoms?

Most people who have chlamydia have no symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they may not appear until several weeks after you have sex with an infected partner. Even when chlamydia causes no symptoms, it can damage your reproductive system.

- An abnormal vaginal discharge
- A burning sensation when urinating

Symptoms in men can include

- A discharge from their penis;
- A burning sensation when urinating;
- Pain and swelling in one or both testicles (although this is less common).

Men and women can also get infected with chlamydia in their rectum. This happens either by having receptive anal sex, or by spread from another infected site (such as the vagina). While these infections often cause no symptoms, they can cause

- Rectal pain;
- Discharge;
- Bleeding.

You should be examined by your doctor if you notice any of these symptoms or if your partner has an STD or symptoms of an STD. STD symptoms can include an unusual sore, a smelly discharge, burning when urinating, or bleeding between periods.