

Chlamydia

What are the symptoms of chlamydia?

If you are a person with a vagina, you can get chlamydia vaginally, in the throat, or in the rectum. You may not notice symptoms, but if you do, you may notice the following:

- An unusual discharge from your vagina
- Burning when you urinate
- Pain, bleeding or discharge from your rectum if you have anal sex
- If the infection spreads, you might get a fever or have pain during sex

If you are a person with a penis, you can get chlamydia in the penis, throat, or in the rectum. You may not notice any symptoms, but if you do, you may notice the following:

- A discharge from your penis
- Burning or itching around the opening of your penis when you urinate
- Pain, bleeding or discharge from your rectum if you have receptive anal sex

How can I lower my risk for chlamydia?

- The surest way is to not have sex.
- Have sex with someone who is not infected and who has sex with only you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting chlamydia if used correctly (see other side for instructions) every single time you have sex.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not prevent any STD.

How is chlamydia treated?

- Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics. It is important to finish all the medicine to be sure you are treated. Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it. If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back and see the doctor.
- Your partner needs to be tested and treated.
- You should get tested again 3 or 4 months after you finish your treatment. This is especially important if you are not sure if your partner was also treated.

What happens if I don't get treated?

- If you do not get treated, chlamydia can stay in your body. It can spread into the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection of the reproductive organs.
- PID can cause serious health problems including infertility and ectopic pregnancy.
- If you have untreated chlamydia, you could pass the infection to your baby when giving birth. Chlamydia can cause serious health problems for babies.
- If you have untreated chlamydia, you have a higher risk of getting HIV if you have unprotected sex with a person living with HIV.

Most people who have chlamydia don't know it; often this STD has no symptoms.

- Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Anyone can get chlamydia. It is very common among teens and young adults.
- Young, sexually active individuals need testing at least yearly.
- You can pass chlamydia to others without knowing it.
- Chlamydia is easy to treat and cure.
- If you do not treat chlamydia, it can lead to serious health problems.