

Chlamydia

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* bacteria.

How do people get chlamydia?

Chlamydia is spread through sexual contact with the penis, vagina, mouth, or anus of an infected partner. Ejaculation (cum) does not have to occur for chlamydia to be given or received. Chlamydia can also be spread from an untreated pregnant mother to her baby during childbirth, resulting in eye infections or pneumonia in some babies. People who have had chlamydia and have been treated may get infected again if they have sexual contact with a person infected with chlamydia. Condoms and barriers are very effective at preventing the spread of chlamydia if used with every sexual act.

What are the symptoms of chlamydia?

Many people do not have symptoms, even though they are infected with chlamydia. Both women and men may experience green or yellow genital discharge and/or pain when urinating. Women may experience bleeding between periods. Men may experience pain, tenderness, or swelling in the testicles (balls). If infected in the rectum, people may experience rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding.

What are complications of chlamydia?

Untreated chlamydia infections can cause issues in men and women's reproductive systems, potentially leading to infertility. Chlamydia can cause infections of the cervix (cervicitis) in women and non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU), an infection in the urethra (urine tube), in a man's penis. In women, untreated chlamydia can spread up into the uterus and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection that can cause permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system. Untreated chlamydia may also increase a person's chances of getting HIV if they are exposed to it.

Who should be tested for chlamydia?

- Sexual partners of people treated for chlamydia
- Anyone experiencing symptoms of chlamydia
- Sexually active people under age 25 should have yearly testing (may include older people with certain risk factors or be done more frequently in people with certain risk factors.)

Treating Chlamydia: Azithromycin

You are receiving this medication because you or your partner tested positive for chlamydia.

Medication

Azithromycin 1 gram (1000 milligrams); one-time dose

Possible side effects

Diarrhea, nausea, abdominal (stomach) pain, vomiting

- Take medication with a meal and plenty of fluids
- Call the clinic if you vomit within 30 minutes of taking the medication, you may need to restart the medication

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room if you experience swelling of your face, lips, throat or difficulty breathing after taking this medication. This may be an allergic reaction.

Resuming sexual activity

- Notify all partners from the last 2 months that you were treated for chlamydia, and do not engage in sexual activity with untreated partners
- Sexual activity can resume 7 days from both you and your partner's treatment

Follow-up testing

All people testing positive for chlamydia should return to clinic 3 months after treatment for retesting.

Avoiding future infection

Anyone treated for chlamydia can become infected again if they have sex with an infected partner. Consistent condom and/or barrier use with every sexual act will help prevent someone from becoming infected.