

Chlamydia

What is Chlamydia?

- Chlamydia is the most commonly reported infectious disease in the United States.
- Chlamydia is spread from person to person by close physical contact during vaginal, anal and/or oral sex
- An estimated 3 million people will be diagnosed with chlamydia each year
- If not treated in women, chlamydial genital infections can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), infertility, chronic pelvic pain, and tubal (ectopic) pregnancy.
- If not treated in men, chlamydial infections can cause swollen testicles and infertility.

What are the signs and symptoms of Chlamydia?

- Most people infected with chlamydia don't know that they have it. Up to 80% of women and 50% of men have no symptoms
- When symptoms do occur in women they may include: abdominal pain, pain during intercourse, burning or pain with urination, unusual vaginal discharge, low-grade fever and bleeding between periods or after sex.
- When symptoms do occur in men they may include: watery, white drip from the penis and pain or burning with urination.
- If not detected and treated, chlamydia infections can cause severe health problems for women including: Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), infertility, ectopic pregnancy and chronic pelvic pain.
- Chlamydia infections in pregnant women may also result in problems for newborns including eye infections and pneumonia.
- Recent research has shown that women infected with chlamydia have a 3 to 5 fold increased risk of acquiring HIV, if exposed.

How do I get tested for Chlamydia?

- The only way to know for sure if you have chlamydia is to go to a doctor or a clinic to get tested.
- Medical tests for chlamydia are available. A sample of discharge from the vagina or penis or a urine sample can be collected by a medical professional to test for chlamydia.
- Make sure that you get checked for chlamydia and other STDs every time you have a health exam.

How do I get treated for Chlamydia?

- Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics.

- Make sure that you take all the pills that you are given. Chlamydia may come back if you don't.
- Do not have sex until all of your pills are gone.
- Tell your sex partner(s) that they must be treated too.
- For testing and treatment for chlamydia in the Philadelphia area, click here for a list of local family planning clinics. Outside of Philadelphia, please click here for a clinic near you www.plannedparenthood.org.

REMINDER: Using a condom consistently can help to protect you from STD's including Chlamydia. Make sure that you get checked for chlamydia and other STDs every time you have a health exam.