

PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE (PID)

What is PID?

- PID is an infection of a woman's pelvic and sexual organs – uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries.
- Germs from STD infections can spread from a woman's vagina into her cervix and up into her uterus and other organs and cause PID.
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the two main STDs that can cause PID. Women get STD's and PID from sexual intercourse.

What are the Signs and Symptoms of PID?

- Many women with PID have no symptoms.
- Women who do have symptoms may notice:
 - Yellow or white vaginal discharge.
 - Bleeding between periods or after sex.
 - Heavier and more painful periods.
 - Cramps or pain in lower abdomen (belly) sometimes with fever, chills or nausea.
 - Pain deep inside during or after sex.
 - Pain during a pelvic examination.
- Untreated, PID can cause painful and permanent damage to the pelvic and sex organs, including infertility.
- If a woman who has had PID gets pregnant, the baby may begin to grow in her fallopian tube instead of her uterus. This is called a tubal (ectopic) pregnancy and may be life threatening.

How do I get tested for PID?

- The only way to know for sure if you have PID is to go to a doctor or a clinic to get tested. It is very important to treat any STD right away.
- A pelvic examination and lab test is used to check for PID.

What is the Treatment for PID?

- PID can be cured with antibiotic pills.
- If your PID is very bad, you may need to be in the hospital for a few days.
- Make sure that you take all the pills that you are given.
- Do not have sex until all of your pills are gone.
- Tell your sex partner(s) that they must be treated too so that you will not get infected again.
- Go back to your health care provider to be sure you have been cured.

REMINDER: Using a condom consistently can help to protect you from STDs.
Make sure that you get checked for STDs every time you have a health exam.