



## WHAT IS... Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a serious STI that can be found in the vagina, penis, eye, throat, or anus.

### Is it dangerous?

If Chlamydia is not treated, it can lead to:

- Infertility (trouble getting pregnant).
- Sterility in males (trouble producing sperm).
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease - PID (in females).
- Ectopic pregnancy (development of the fertilized egg outside of the uterus).
- Reiter Syndrome (reactive arthritis, ulcers in the mouth, red eyes).
- Non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) - inflammation of the urethra.
- Increases possibility of HIV transmission if unprotected sex with infected partner.



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# CHLAMYDIA

## What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Most people have NO symptoms. Some people will have:

- A discharge coming from the penis or vagina.
- Burning while urinating.
- Lower abdominal pain.
- Bleeding after sex (female).
- Pain during sex.
- Vaginal bleeding between periods.
- Itching down the urethra (males).
- Pain or swelling in the testicles.

## How is it spread?

Chlamydia is spread by sexual contact (e.g., unprotected oral, vaginal, or anal sex) with an infected person.

## How is it tested?

It's tested by taking swabs from the tip of the penis, cervix, throat, or rectum. In some cases, it's tested by a urine test.

## How is it treated?

It's treated with antibiotic pills. Take the pills as prescribed so that the infection doesn't return. No sex during treatment or until checkup 3 weeks after treatment is completed. It's important (since many have no signs and symptoms) to have partner(s) treated too, to prevent long-term damage if it's not treated.

## Is a post-test important?

Yes. A post test is done three weeks after treatment to see if the infection is gone.

## When can I have sex again?

After you and your partner have been tested and treated and you're told you're both cured.

## How is it prevented?

- Abstinence
- When you start a new relationship be tested and have your partner tested for STIs.
- Use condoms.

References:

Public Health Agency of Canada: *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections 2006 Revised Edition*. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/sti-its/pdf/sti-its-eng.pdf>

Health Canada: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Sexual Health Facts <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/std-mts/faq-eng.php>