

PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE (PID)

What is PID?

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) refers to infection or inflammation of the organs and tissues in the pelvis, but is commonly used to indicate infection of the fallopian tubes, which carry the eggs from the ovaries to the uterus.

http://www.mshc.org.au/Portals/_default/uploads/fact_sheets/pelvic_inflam_disease_a4.pdf

How do you get PID?

PID is usually (though not always) the result of infection with bacteria such as Chlamydia and gonorrhea, which can move upwards from the cervix, into the uterus and then into the tubes.

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What are the signs and symptoms?

PID symptoms include mild abdominal pain, backache, heavy menstrual periods, painful intercourse, and general lethargy.

Werner p.662

How do you know if you've got PID?

Often you don't. But it's important to be checked for Chlamydia and sometimes gonorrhea if you change sexual partners or if you have any of the above symptoms. As well as doing tests, your practitioner will also usually do a pelvic or internal examination to check for tenderness or pain.

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How is PID treated?

PID is treated with the same antibiotics that we use for chlamydial or gonococcal infections, but usually a course over 2 to 3 weeks.

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Are there any complications if it's not treated?

Common complications of PID include infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain. PID becomes dangerous when the infection backs up from the vagina to the uterus and into the fallopian tubes, where it can start growing in the open pelvic cavity. Occasionally PID causes the growth of tubo-ovarian abscesses. If an abscess ruptures, it releases infectious material into the pelvis. In either case, life-threatening peritonitis is the result.

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How can I avoid getting PID?

Practising safe sex by always using condoms with new partners is the best way to prevent infection. Having regular check-ups (especially for Chlamydia) if you change partners.

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This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). It is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor. All clients are strongly advised to check with their doctor about any specific questions or concerns they may have. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information in this pamphlet is correct at the time of printing.

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