

Fact Sheet

Chlamydia

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia trachomatis is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection in our community. It affects both women and men, including men who have sex with men. In women it causes an infection of the cervix and in men it infects the urethra. Chlamydia can also infect the anus, throat and can cause conjunctivitis in the eyes.

How do you get Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is most often transmitted by vaginal, oral or anal sex. It can also be passed from mother to child during childbirth.

Oral sex is not a common cause of infection with this bacteria, although it is still possible. It is even less likely for transmission to take place from vagina-to-mouth or anus-to-mouth contact. Transmission is not known to occur from mouth-to-vagina and mouth to anus contact.

What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Many who have chlamydia don't develop symptoms, but they can still infect others through sexual contact. Symptoms may include genital pain, inflammation and discharge from the vagina or penis and conjunctivitis in the eyes. Women regularly do not have symptoms, although after prolonged periods the infection can spread to the fallopian tubes and cause lower abdominal and lower back pain, pain during intercourse, bleeding between menstrual periods,

nausea or fever, and may lead to further complications of the reproductive system. Men are more likely to experience symptoms of pus (thick yellow-white fluid) or watery or milky discharge from the penis, pain or burning during urination, pain or swelling of the testicles.

Who gets Chlamydia?

Anyone who has had unprotected sexual contact with an infected person.

What are the tests & diagnosis?

Tests are likely to be a swab of the infected area and/or a urine test.

What is the treatment?

Chlamydia is easily treated with antibiotics. It is important that medications are taken as directed, and that the partners of the infected person should be tested and treated at the same time.

How can i prevent Chlamydia?

Using a barrier method for safer sex such as latex condoms, gloves and dental dams can reduce the risk of infection.

This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on chlamydia. 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 publishing.

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