

Chlamydia

What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a common curable sexually transmitted disease caused by a bacterium known as *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

How do you get chlamydia?

Chlamydia can be transferred during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Any sexually active person can be infected with Chlamydia.

What are the symptoms/complications of Chlamydia

Chlamydia is known as the “silent disease” as often the infected person has no symptoms. Men might have a discharge from their penis or have a slight burning pain when they urinate. Women can also have a discharge or burning sensation when they urinate. The infection can spread to the fallopian tubes (tubes that carry the eggs to the uterus) and leave the woman “sterile” (unable to get pregnant). In 10-15% of untreated women, the infection can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). Chlamydia increases the chances of becoming infected with HIV, if exposed.

What is the treatment for Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics. All sex partners should be tested and treated. Persons being treated should not have sex until all their partners are treated to prevent getting re-infected.

How can Chlamydia be prevented?

The only way to avoid getting a sexually transmitted disease is to abstain from sexual contact, or to be in a monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and known to be uninfected.

Latex condoms and dental dams, when used each and every time, and used correctly, can reduce the chance of getting sexually transmitted diseases.