



CHLAMYDIA INFECTION FACTS

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), chlamydia is the most frequently reported, bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States today. About **2.8 million** Americans are infected each year! **Sexually active young females are thought to be at highest risk! The cervix of a young woman is not fully matured, so this puts her at higher risk for infection.**

You get chlamydia by having unprotected sex (oral, anal, vaginal) with an infected person. **Most people with chlamydia do not know that they have it!** With each sexual encounter they can spread it to someone else. **The only sure way to know if you have it is to be tested**. All sexually active women 25 and younger should be tested **every** year.

This infection **does not make most people feel sick**. Only 1 of 4 women and 1 out of 2 men have **any** symptoms. This is why **a person can have it and not know it**. For people who *do* have symptoms, some things to look for are:

In men:

- burning when urinating
- discharge from the tip of the penis
- burning or itching around the opening of the penis

In women:

- vaginal discharge
- burning when urinating
- abdominal or low back pain
- bleeding between menstrual cycles
- pain with sex

If you have chlamydia, your doctor can treat you with antibiotics. Take all of your medicine as prescribed.

Talk to your doctor:

- if you have any questions or concerns about this medicine
- about the need to be retested in the future
- if symptoms do not go away

Tell your partner that you have an infection. He or she can then be tested and treated. You can be re-infected if your sex partner is not treated.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE NOT TREATED?

For women The CDC says up to **40% of women** will develop **pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)**. This can lead to:

- **chronic pelvic pain**
- **ectopic pregnancy** (a pregnancy outside of the uterus)
- **infertility**

For men it can cause urethral infections. Though not common, it may also cause sterility.

Babies born to women with this disease can get very sick. **All pregnant women should be tested for chlamydia.**

CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE TO PREVENT CHLAMYDIA:

- **Abstain from sex.**
- **Only have sex with one long-term partner who has been tested negative for chlamydia.**
- **Practicing safe sex by properly using a condom can reduce risk.**

This summary is based on information from the CDC.

More information is at www.cdc.gov/std/Chlamydia/STDFact-Chlamydia.htm.