



Chlamydia

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States. It is caused by the bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis* and can cause infertility and damage to a woman's reproductive organs.

How is Chlamydia spread?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease that can be spread during vaginal, anal or oral sex. Any sexually active person can get chlamydia. Teenage and young adult women are more susceptible to chlamydia. Having multiple sexual partners increases the risk for chlamydia. Chlamydia can also be spread from an infected mother to her baby during vaginal childbirth.

How can Chlamydia be prevented?

- Latex male condoms can reduce the risk of transmission
- Long-term single partner relationship where both partners have been tested and are not infected
- Abstinence

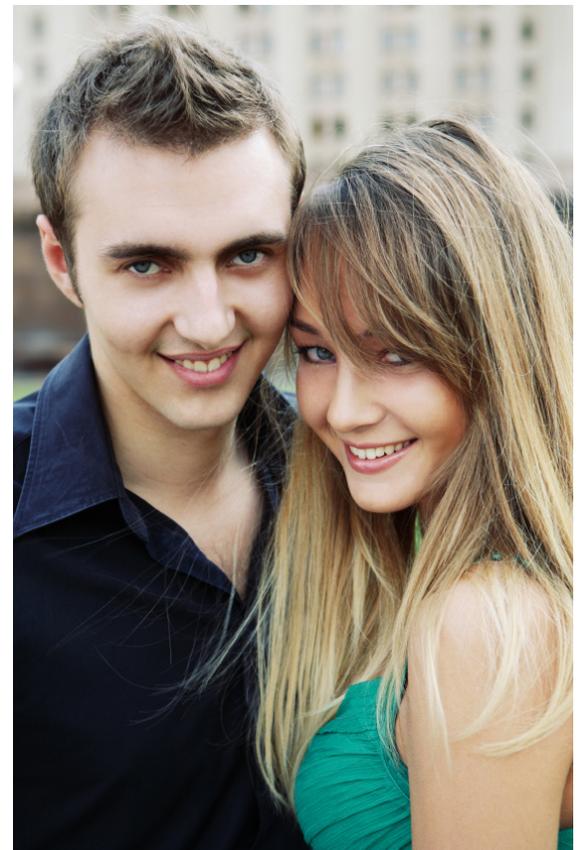
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends yearly testing for all sexually active women under age 25, older women with multiple or new sexual partners, and all pregnant women.

What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

The majority of people infected with chlamydia do not experience any symptoms so they usually do not know they are infected.

If women do experience symptoms, they can include abnormal vaginal discharge, burning sensation during urination, lower abdominal pain, lower back pain, nausea, fever, painful intercourse and bleeding between menstrual periods.

If men experience symptoms, they can include discharge from the penis, burning during urination and/or burning or itching around the opening of the penis.



How is Chlamydia diagnosed?

Chlamydia is diagnosed through laboratory tests. Tests can be performed with a urine sample or with a specimen collected from the cervix or penis.



What is the treatment for Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is treated and cured with antibiotics. The most commonly used treatments are azithromycin and doxycycline. All sexual partners of an infected person should also be tested and treated if positive.

Persons with chlamydia should not have sexual intercourse for 7 days after treatment or follow the specific advice of their physician. Women are frequently re-infected if their partners are not treated.

What happens if Chlamydia is not treated?

For Women

- Chlamydia can spread into the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID is a serious infection of the reproductive organs that can result in being unable to have children or an ectopic pregnancy.
- Untreated chlamydia can be passed on from mother to baby during child birth. Babies can get chlamydial infections in their eyes and respiratory tracks and it is the leading cause of pneumonia and pink eye in infants.

For Men

- Chlamydia usually does not cause long-term health problems in men.
- An infection can develop in the tube that carries sperm from the testes.

Rates of Chlamydia in Ohio by county:

The Ohio Department of Health tracks chlamydia rates in each county per every 100,000 people. Below are the results as of 2014.

