

CAN I GET CHLAMYDIA AGAIN AFTER I'VE BEEN TREATED?

Yes, you can get chlamydia again. You can get it from an untreated partner or a new partner.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET TREATED?

IF YOU HAVE A VAGINA

- Chlamydia stays in your body if it is not treated. It can spread into the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection of the reproductive organs.
- PID may cause serious health problems if you become pregnant. PID can also cause damage that makes you unable to get pregnant.
- PID may cause chronic pain in your pelvic area.
- If you have untreated chlamydia, you could pass the infection to your baby when giving birth. Chlamydia can cause serious health problems for babies.
- If you have untreated chlamydia, you have a higher chance of getting HIV if you have unprotected sex with a partner living with HIV.

IF YOU HAVE A PENIS

Chlamydia rarely causes long-term health problems for people with penises. You may get an infection in the tube that carries sperm from the testes. This infection can cause pain and fever. In rare cases, this infection may prevent you from having children.

IF I HAVE CHLAMYDIA, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR MY PARTNERS?

- Your partners may have chlamydia, too.
- Tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated.
- Avoid having sex until you've both finished your treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.

a message for everyone

PROTECT YOURSELF + YOUR PARTNERS

Your partners may have chlamydia, too. Tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated. Avoid having sex until you've both finished your treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.



For more information, contact:

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U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



chlamydia

THE FACTS



THE FACTS

- Chlamydia (cla MI dee a) is a sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- Anyone can get chlamydia regardless of their age, race, gender, or sexual orientation. It is very common among teens and young adults.
- People with vaginas may experience more complex health problems if left untreated and should be tested every year.
- Often the infection has no symptoms, making many people unaware that they have it.
- You can pass chlamydia to others without knowing it.
- Chlamydia is easy to treat and cure.
- If you do not treat chlamydia, it can lead to serious health problems.

HOW CAN I LOWER MY RISK FOR CHLAMYDIA?

- The surest way to prevent chlamydia is not to have sex or to have sex only with someone who's not infected and who has sex only with you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting chlamydia if used the right way every single time you have sex.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not prevent any STI.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET CHLAMYDIA?

- You can get chlamydia by having sex with someone who has it. "Having sex" means having anal, oral, or vaginal sex.
- If you are pregnant and have chlamydia, you can pass the infection to your baby.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I HAVE CHLAMYDIA?

Ask a provider to give you a test for chlamydia. The test is easy and painless.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CHLAMYDIA?

You can get chlamydia in the vagina, penis, rectum, or throat. You may not notice any symptoms. If you do notice symptoms, you might notice the following:

IF YOU HAVE A VAGINA

- An unusual discharge from your vagina.
- Burning when you urinate.
- Pain, bleeding, or discharge from your rectum if you have anal sex.
- If the infection spreads, you might get a fever or have pain during sex.

IF YOU HAVE A PENIS

- A discharge from your penis.
- Burning or itching around the opening of your penis when you urinate.
- Pain, bleeding, or discharge from your rectum if you have receptive anal sex.

WHEN SHOULD I BE TESTED?

IF YOU HAVE A VAGINA

You should be tested for chlamydia at least once a year if you are:

- 25 or younger and you're having sex.
- If you're having sex with more than one partner.
- If you have a new sex partner.
- If you are pregnant.

IF YOU HAVE A PENIS

- If you're having sex with more than one partner.
- If you have a new sex partner.
- See a provider if you notice a discharge or feel a burning around your penis.

EVERYONE

See a provider if your partner has chlamydia or symptoms that might be chlamydia.

HOW IS CHLAMYDIA TREATED?

- Chlamydia can be treated and cured with antibiotics.
- Finish all of the medicine to be sure you are cured.
- Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
- If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see the provider.
- You should get tested again three or four months after you finish your treatment. This is especially important if you are not sure if your partner was also treated.