

HOW IS PID TREATED?

- If PID is caught early, it can be treated effectively 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 your provider.

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

Yes, you can get PID again if you are infected with an STI again. If you've had PID before, you have a higher chance of getting it again.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET TREATED?

- PID can cause scar tissue in the womb and other reproductive organs.
- The longer you delay treatment for PID, or the more times you get PID, the more likely it is that you won't be able to get pregnant.
- After having PID, people who do get pregnant are more likely to have an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb. This can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.
- PID can also cause chronic pain in the pelvic area.

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

- Your partners may have an STI.
- Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated for STIs.
- Avoid having sex until you and your partners have finished treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.

a message for everyone
PROTECT YOURSELF + YOUR PARTNERS



For more information, contact:

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



pelvic
inflammatory
disease
THE FACTS



THE FACTS

- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is a serious complication of some sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- PID is a general name for infections of the womb, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.
- PID is common. People with vaginas can get PID if they have an STI (like chlamydia [cla MI dee a] or gonorrhea [gon a REE a]) that isn't treated.
- PID can be treated, and being treated promptly may reduce your chance of having complications from PID.

HOW CAN I LOWER MY RISK FOR PID?

- To prevent PID, avoid getting an STI.
- If you do have an STI, see a provider and get it treated right away.
- The surest way to avoid getting an STIs 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 some STIs if they are 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 WITH VAGINAS GET PID?

- PID is a complication of some STIs. You can get an STI by having sex with an infected partner.
- If you don't treat the STI infection, it can spread. PID occurs when the infection gets into the womb and other organs that enable childbirth.
- People with vaginas who douche may have a higher risk of getting PID than people who do not douche.
- This is because douching causes harmful changes in the healthy bacteria that live in the vagina.

WHO'S AT RISK FOR PID?

- People with vaginas who are sexually active and of childbearing age are most at risk for PID. The more sex partners they have, the higher the risk of getting PID.
- People with vaginas who are 25 or younger are more likely to get PID than those older than 25.
- People with vaginas who douche may be at higher risk for PID than those who don't douche.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I HAVE PID?

There's no test for PID. Usually, a provider will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The provider can examine you and give you a test for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STIs often cause PID.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF PID?

Very often, people with vaginas (and their providers) don't realize that they have PID because the symptoms may be mild. Some, however, have severe symptoms. You might notice:

- Pain in the lower abdomen.
- Fever.
- An unusual discharge from your vagina, with a bad odor.
- Pain when you have sexual intercourse.
- Bleeding between periods.

WHEN SHOULD I BE EXAMINED?

You should be examined by a provider if:

- You have any symptoms (like pain when you have sex or a smelly discharge from your vagina).
- You have bleeding between periods.
- You have a partner with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or another STI.
- You have a partner with symptoms that might be an STI (like burning or itching when passing urine or an unusual discharge).