

Chlamydia is an infection caused by bacteria. Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the U.S.

Chlamydia


How is it spread?

Men get chlamydia through vaginal, oral, or anal sex (or sexual contact) with an infected partner.

What are signs of chlamydia in men?

There may be no signs or symptoms of infection. Symptoms may not appear until several weeks after exposure and can include:

- ▶ Pain/burning with urination.
- ▶ Watery/mucus discharge from penis.
- ▶ Redness, swelling or itching at the tip of the penis.
- ▶ Hard to start urination.
- ▶ Blood in semen or urine.
- ▶ Discomfort during sex.
- ▶ Rectal pain, bleeding, or discharge.
- ▶ Testicular pain, tenderness and swelling (less common).



See your health care provider to be tested if you have signs of chlamydia.

How do you know if you have chlamydia?

The only way to know if you have chlamydia is by a medical exam. Many men with chlamydia do not have any signs of infection and routine testing is not recommended. Get tested if you:

- ▶ Have an oral, anal or vaginal sex partner who has been recently diagnosed with an STD.
- ▶ Are sexually active and have signs as listed above.
- ▶ Are having sex with someone who might be having sex with others.

How is it treated?

Chlamydia can be treated and cured with antibiotics. Always finish antibiotic treatment, even if signs of chlamydia go away. Do not have sex until after treatment and signs of it are gone. See your health care provider if your signs do not go away after treatment.

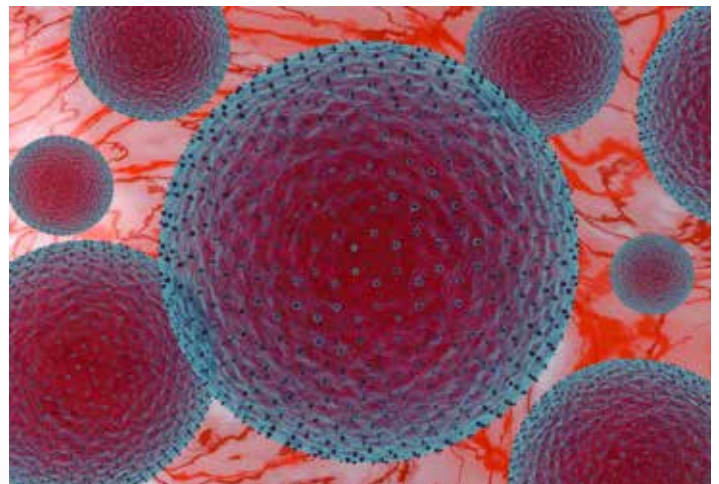
People who have had chlamydia and have been treated may get infected again if they have sexual contact with a person infected with chlamydia.

What can happen if you have chlamydia for a long time?

- ▶ Swelling in the anus.
- ▶ Eye and joint redness and pain.
- ▶ Inflammation of the liver capsule resulting in right sided abdominal pain.
- ▶ More likely to get HIV from a partner who is infected with HIV.

If you have chlamydia:

- ▶ Always finish all antibiotic treatment.
- ▶ Do not have sex with someone who has chlamydia or has not finished treatment (to prevent re-infection).
- ▶ Tell current and recent sex partners of the infection so they can get checked.
- ▶ Know that it can increase the risk of getting and spreading HIV.



Chlamydia trachomatis microscopy

How can you avoid chlamydia?

- ▶ Avoid sexual contact.
- ▶ Have safer sex:
 - Reduce the number of sexual partners.
 - Condoms, when used correctly, can reduce the risk of getting chlamydia. Each time you have sex use a condom:
 - During vaginal sex.
 - During anal sex.
 - During oral sex.
 - Have sex with only one partner who does not have sex with others and does not have chlamydia.



For more information, see *Safer Sex* on page 71

Learn more:

Veterans Health Library:

Chlamydia

http://www.veteranshealthlibrary.org/DiseasesConditions/InfectiousDiseases/142,85081_VA

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

Chlamydia - CDC Fact Sheet

www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm

U.S. National Library of Medicine:

Chlamydia infections in men

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000659.htm>

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force:

Gonorrhea and Chlamydia: Screening, September 2014

<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/RecommendationStatementFinal/chlamydia-and-gonorrhea-screening#Pod2>