



CHLAMYDIA

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What is it?

- A sexually transmitted infection caused by bacteria

Signs and Symptoms

- Many people do not have any symptoms, and if they do develop, they can appear and disappear.
- **WOMEN:**
 - Increased vaginal discharge, abnormal vaginal bleeding, pain or bleeding during or after intercourse, pain when passing urine, pain in lower abdomen (stomach)
- **MEN:**
 - Watery or cloudy discharge from the penis, pain when passing urine or passing urine more often, tingling or itching inside of penis, pain in testicles

How do you get it?

- It spreads from person to person through vaginal, anal and oral sex.

Treatment

- It is treated with specific antibiotics.
- Treatment is effective as long as you take all your pills as directed, avoid alcohol during treatment, and your sexual partner is also treated.
- You must not have sex for 7 days after treatment.

Complications

- If not treated:
- ***In Women***
 - Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID): an infection in the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries
 - Infertility (unable to get pregnant) or ectopic pregnancy (tubal pregnancy)
 - Babies born to infected women could have severe eye, ear or lung infections.
- ***In Men:***
 - The infection can spread to the testicles and prostate gland and may cause infertility.

Prevention

- Always use a condom, even if you are using other methods to prevent pregnancy.

Chlamydia is a reportable disease and must be reported to the Local Medical Officer of Health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.