

# Chlamydia Fact Sheet

## What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection caused by bacteria that can be spread by vaginal, penile, oral, or anal sexual contact and intercourse.

## What are the symptoms (if any)?

Approximately 75% of women and 50% of men show no symptoms of the disease after infection. If symptoms are present, they may include a burning sensation when urinating.

Women may also suffer unusual discharge, pain during sexual intercourse and vaginal bleeding. Men may have an unusual discharge from the penis, inflamed or swollen testicles, and discomfort around the tip of the penis.

## How is it treated?

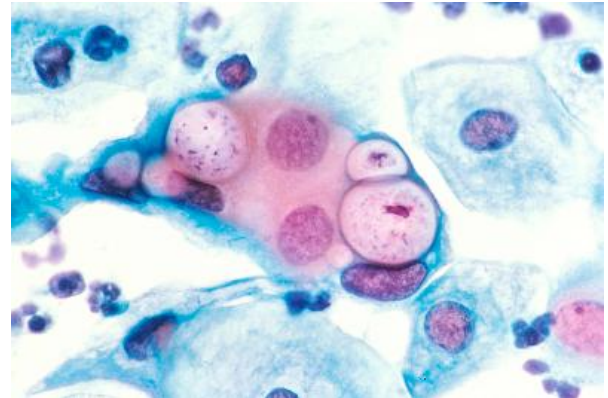
Chlamydia is curable and can be treated with a simple dose of antibiotics.

You should abstain from sexual intercourse until your treatment is finished, and ensure that your sexual partners are also treated to avoid re-infecting each other.

## What happens if you do not get treated?

If Chlamydia is left untreated, there is an increased risk of getting other STIs, including HIV.

In women Chlamydia can infect the cervix and urinary tract and can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) when it reaches the fallopian tubes. Chlamydia can lead to scar tissue developing within the fallopian tubes which can prevent the passage of eggs from the ovaries to the uterus.



*Human Pap smear showing Chlamydia in the vacuoles at 500x*

These complications can prevent a woman from becoming pregnant. There is also a greater risk of ectopic pregnancy.

If a baby is exposed to Chlamydia during delivery, he or she could suffer from eye infections or pneumonia.

In men, Chlamydia may reduce fertility and lead to other complications of the male reproductive system: Chlamydia can infect the urinary tract causing swelling or inflammation of the testicles.

## Better2Know Testing Information

You should wait 14 days after any incident you are concerned about before getting tested for Chlamydia.

Better2Know's standard Chlamydia test uses a urine sample to test for Chlamydia in men, and a urine sample or vaginal swab for women. If you have other particular symptoms, we can also take a swab of your throat, vagina or rectum to test for Chlamydia.