

Chlamydia



What is it?

- **Chlamydia**- is a STD/sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis, can damage a woman's reproductive organs, symptoms are mild but cause irreversible damage, infertility, can cause discharge from the penis of an infected man

Signs and Symptoms:

- **Women**- often no symptoms. Abnormal vaginal discharge, burning sensation when urinating, in the throats of women and men who have oral sex with an infected partner
 - Pregnant- lower abdominal, lower back pain, fever, nausea, pain during intercourse, , infection of the cervix can spread to the rectum
 - Men- discharge from their penis, burning sensation when urinating, burning or itching around the opening of the penis, pain and swelling in the testicles; complications are rare unless infection spreads to the epididymis/tube that carries sperm to the testis causes pain, fever and rarely sterility
 - Anal Intercourse- rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding
- **Genital Chlamydia**- can cause arthritis, skin lesions with inflammation of the eye and urethra/Reiter's syndrome



Facts:

- **Chlamydia**- can be transmitted during anal, vaginal or oral sex, from mother to baby during vaginal childbirth, the greater the number of sex partners the greater the risk, the cervix of female women is not fully mature and is susceptible to infection, known as the silent disease
- **Untreated** – serious reproductive and other short-term and long-term consequences, PID/pelvic inflammatory disease causing permanent damage to the uterus, fallopian tubes, and surrounding tissue, can lead to chronic pelvic pain, infertility, pregnancy outside the uterus, 5 times more likely to become infected with HIV

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- screen annually for sexually active women with new or multiple active sex partners, pregnant women, urine tests, specimen from penis or cervix, antibiotics, abstain from sexual intercourse until treatment is completed, latex male condoms reduce the risk