

# Chlamydia

## What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a type of bacteria that is sexually transmitted. Chlamydia is one of the most common STD's. Almost 3 million people get Chlamydia every year.

## What are the symptoms of Chlamydia?

Often Chlamydia does not have any symptoms, and people do not know that they have it. If people do have symptoms, they start to show about 1-4 weeks after contracting it. Women may have abnormal vaginal discharge, pain with urination, more frequent urination, abnormal bleeding between periods, bleeding with sex, and pain in the abdomen. Men may have a drip from their penis, pain with urination, more frequent urination, and swollen/painful testicles. You should see your health care provider if you are having any unusual pain or discharge, so you can be tested for Chlamydia.

## How did I get Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is transmitted through vaginal, anal, and oral sex.

## How is Chlamydia treated?

Chlamydia is easily treated with antibiotics. You should take all of the antibiotics until they are gone. Your partner should also be treated.

## What can I do after I treat the Chlamydia?

- Wait to have sex. Ask your health care provider how long you must wait after treatment.
- Tell your partner(s). Your partner(s) must be treated. If they are not treated, they could give the Chlamydia back to you or to someone else.
- Use latex condoms every time you have sex. If you are allergic to latex, use polyurethane condoms.
- Get checked for STD's including Chlamydia regularly, at least once a year.
- Don't have sex. Abstinence is the only sure way to protect yourself from Chlamydia and other STD's.
- Have sex with only one uninfected partner who only has sex with you.