

Chlamydia

1. What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a very common sexually transmitted infection (STD) caused by bacteria (germs). You can get it in your vagina, penis, rectum (butt), or throat. If left untreated, chlamydia can make it difficult for a woman to get pregnant.

2. How is chlamydia spread?

You can get chlamydia by having unprotected vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has it. It's passed through contact with semen, vaginal fluids, or discharge. Most people don't know they have it because they don't have symptoms. You can't tell if someone has it by looking at them. Getting tested is the only way to find out if you have chlamydia.

3. What are the symptoms of chlamydia?

Most people with chlamydia don't have symptoms. When people have symptoms, they can be mild at first. They can show up right away or as long as 30 days after having sex with someone with chlamydia.

You may have some of these symptoms:

- Pain or burning when you urinate (pee)
- Fluid from the vagina, penis, or anus that smells or looks strange
- Bleeding from the vagina during or after sex
- Pain in the lower belly, back or anus (butt), especially when having sex (for women)
- Pain in the penis, testicles or anus (butt), especially when having sex (for men)

4. How can I get tested?

To get tested for chlamydia, go to a doctor or health clinic. There are free or low cost, confidential testing sites available around Los Angeles County. Visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/STDclinics.htm> to find a local clinic. If you don't have a regular doctor, call the free STD hotline (800) 758-0880 to find free testing and treatment.

5. How is chlamydia treated?

Chlamydia can be treated and cured with medicine prescribed by your doctor. It's important to take all the medicine as instructed and don't share your medication with anyone unless instructed. Your doctor may give you medicine for your partner called patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT). Make sure both you and your sex partner(s) are treated before having sex again. If chlamydia isn't treated, it can cause serious health problems, including difficulty getting pregnant or painful infection of the testicles.

6. How can I prevent chlamydia?

- Use condoms
- Limit your sex partners
- Get tested in all the places (vagina, penis, anus (butt) and throat) you have sex
- If you are pregnant, seek early prenatal care to prevent health problems for you and your baby



Key Points

- Chlamydia is very common, especially among people 15-24 years old.
- Most people with chlamydia don't have symptoms, but they can still spread it.
- Use condoms to prevent the spread of chlamydia.

For more information:

**Los Angeles County
Department of Public
Health**

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/>

**California Department of
Public Health**

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Chlamydia.aspx>

**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
(CDC)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm>