

Chlamydia Trachomatis

Some commonly asked questions and answers

Information Leaflet

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually shared infection in the country. It affects both men and women. 7 out of 10 people with Chlamydia have no symptoms and will be unaware that they have Chlamydia.

Young people are particularly at risk if they have ever been sexually active.

How is Chlamydia passed on?

It can be passed on in the following ways:

- Having sex with someone who has Chlamydia. This may have been recently or many months or years earlier.
- By a mother to her baby at birth.
- By passing the infection on fingers from the genitals into the eyes.

How common is Chlamydia?

- About 1 in 20 sexually active women in the UK are infected with Chlamydia.
- It is most common in women under the age of 25.

What symptoms will I have?

As already mentioned, most people will not have symptoms. If they do, they can include:

In women

- An unusual vaginal discharge
- Bleeding after sex
- Bleeding between periods
- Abdominal or pelvic pain
- Pain during sex
- The need to pass urine more often or pain when passing urine

In Men

- Discharge from the penis which may be white/cloudy and watery
- A burning sensation when passing urine
- Swollen and/or painful testicles

In women and men

- Appendicitis
- Upper abdominal pain
- Painful swelling and irritation in the eyes
- Inflamed joints

- Occasionally a rash on the soles of the feet and genitals

How can I find out if I have Chlamydia?

You can have a swab taken which will show whether or not you have this infection. In some places, a urine test is available to detect Chlamydia infection.

Can Chlamydia be treated?

Chlamydia can be easily treated with antibiotics.

Your sexual partner/partners will also need to be treated with antibiotics to prevent you becoming re-infected.

Why should I have treatment if I have no symptoms?

- You can pass the infection to your sexual partner even if you do not have symptoms
- The infection may spread and cause complications

What effect can Chlamydia have on me?

If left untreated, Chlamydia can cause serious problems.

Some women with Chlamydia (up to 1 in 5) may suffer from Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (infection in the lower abdomen).

This can lead to:

- Pain
- Ectopic pregnancy (when a pregnancy develops outside the womb)
- Infertility (difficulty getting pregnant)

Where can I be treated?

A Chlamydia test is available at:

- Your GP surgery
- Family Planning clinic
- Well Women's clinic
- Genito-urinary Medicine clinic (GUM clinic)

The local GUM clinic is held at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, telephone: 0151 706 2621.

Liverpool Women's is a smoke free site. Smoking is not allowed inside the hospital buildings, grounds, car parks or gardens. If you would like advice about stopping smoking please ask a member of staff.

This leaflet can be made available in difference formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

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