



LENAWEE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chlamydia

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What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can infect men and women. It can be cured easily, but if left untreated can make it difficult for woman and men to have children. It can be tested through urine and/or anal, vaginal, and a throat swabs at the Lenawee County Health Department.

How is Chlamydia Spread?

Chlamydia is spread by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Chlamydia can be spread by a male or female partner, and can also be passed to a baby during childbirth. You can be re-infected with chlamydia after you have already had it, even if it was treated.

Symptoms of Chlamydia

Most people who have chlamydia do not have any symptoms. Symptoms may appear several weeks after having a sexual encounter with an infected partner.

Symptoms for Females:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- A burning sensation when urinating

Symptoms for Males:

- Discharge from the penis
- A burning sensation when urinating
- Pain and swelling in one or both testicles (less common)

Rectal symptoms for Men and Women:

- Rectal Pain
- Discharge
- Bleeding

Pregnancy and Chlamydia

You can pass this infection to your baby during delivery. This can result in eye infections or pneumonia in the newborn. Chlamydia can cause early delivery.

Reducing the Risk

- Communication with partner(s)
- Use a condom or dental dam with every sex partner
- Don't share sex toys and wash them thoroughly after every use
- Having one STI increases your risk for getting other STIs

Treating Chlamydia:

- Doxycycline is the most commonly used antibiotic to treat chlamydia in a non-pregnant person
- Finish the medication (pills) even if you start to feel better
- Do not share medication
- Reinfections are common, so get tested again 3 months after finishing treatment

*If the infection is not treated, it can lead to PID (pelvic inflammatory disease) which causes abdominal and pelvic pain in women. This can cause long-term pain, inability to have a baby, or an ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).

This FACT SHEET is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information call your health care provider or call the Lenawee County Health Department (517) 264-5226