What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is an infection of the penis, vagina, or tubes that carry the urine. It can even spread into the uterus of the woman.

You may not have any signs of chlamydia at all. Most people don’t.

Some people may have these signs:
- There may be a thick, yellow, or bloody discharge from the penis or vagina.
- You may have pain or burning when you urinate.
- You may bleed or feel pain when you have sex.
- You may bleed when you are not on your period.

If you don’t get treated, it can cause serious health problems for you. You could even have trouble having children when you want to.

How did I get it?

You got chlamydia by having sex with someone who had it. It can be spread by the penis, vagina, mouth, or anus.

Talk to your partner about using condoms every time you have sex.

What should I do?

Get treated.
- Antibiotics can cure this disease. You may drink the medicine in one dose. Or you may take pills for 7 days.
- You and your partner(s) must get treated.
- If you think you may be pregnant, be sure to tell your doctor before you get treated.
- Take all your pills, even if you feel better.

Watch for these warning signs.
- If you vomit, get a body rash, fever, headache, or you ache all over, call your clinician.
- If you have trouble breathing, call 911.
- If you are pregnant and labor starts early, call 911 right away.

Remember:
- Do not have sex for at least one week after you start your treatment.
- Get tested for HIV. Ask your clinician about it.
Why should I get treated?

If you get treated, chlamydia can be cured.

If you don’t get treated:
- You can pass it on to others.
- You have a higher chance of getting HIV (the AIDS virus).
- The vagina or penis could hurt and swell.

Chlamydia can cause problems later on, especially for a woman.
- She could get an infection in her uterus and tubes that carry the egg.
- She could have a pregnancy in her tubes.
- She might not be able to get pregnant at all.

It could even cause problems for your baby:
- Your baby could be born too soon.
- It could harm your baby’s eyes and lungs during birth.

When you get treated, you can help prevent all these health problems.

Protect yourself!

- Take all of your medicine.
- Tell your partner(s) to get checked. You and your partner(s) must be treated.
- Do not have sex until you and your partner(s) get treated.
- Use condoms every time you have sex.
- Do not douche. If you clean the inside of your vagina, you have a higher chance of getting chlamydia again.

It’s a good idea to:
- Get a hepatitis B vaccine.
- Get tested for HIV, and other diseases people get from having sex.
- Ask to get checked for these diseases every year.

To learn more about chlamydia, call toll-free:
1-800-227-8922

Developed by EPA, A Division of California Family Health Council, Inc. (CHFC)
492 Division Street
Campbell, CA 95008-1039
To order copies, call 1-800-428-5438
http://epa.chfc.org
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PB 2952 Chlamydia (Eng)