



CHLAMYDIA GENITAL INFECTION

WHAT IS CHLAMYDIA?

CHLAMYDIA IS A BACTERIAL INFECTION THAT IS SPREAD THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PERSON.

WHO GETS CHLAMYDIA?

ANY SEXUALLY ACTIVE PERSON CAN BE INFECTED WITH CHLAMYDIA.

HOW IS CHLAMYDIA SPREAD?

CHLAMYDIA IS SPREAD THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT. THIS INCLUDES PENIS TO VAGINA OR PENIS TO RECTUM CONTACT. IT CAN ALSO BE PASSED FROM THE MOTHER TO HER NEWBORN DURING BIRTH.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CHLAMYDIA?

BECAUSE APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF WOMEN AND 50 PERCENT OF MEN WITH CHLAMYDIA HAVE NO SYMPTOMS, MOST PEOPLE INFECTED ARE NOT AWARE OF THEIR INFECTIONS AND MAY NOT SEEK HEALTH CARE. IF MALES HAVE SYMPTOMS, THEY MAY INCLUDE ITCHING AND/OR BURNING ON URINATION AND DISCHARGE FROM THE PENIS IN SMALL OR MODERATE AMOUNTS. IF FEMALES HAVE SYMPTOMS, THEY MAY INCLUDE VAGINAL DISCHARGE AND PAINFUL URINATION.

WHEN AND FOR HOW LONG IS A PERSON ABLE TO SPREAD CHLAMYDIA?

FROM THE TIME A PERSON IS INFECTED WITH CHLAMYDIA, HE OR SHE CAN SPREAD THE DISEASE. A PERSON CAN CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE INFECTION UNTIL TWO WEEKS AFTER THEY ARE PROPERLY TREATED.

DOES PAST INFECTION WITH CHLAMYDIA MAKE A PERSON IMMUNE?

PAST INFECTION WITH CHLAMYDIA DOES NOT MAKE A PERSON IMMUNE TO CHLAMYDIA.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR CHLAMYDIA?

CHLAMYDIA IS TREATED WITH MEDICATION. PERSONS BEING TREATED FOR CHLAMYDIA SHOULD NOT HAVE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE FOR TWO WEEKS AFTER THEY AND THEIR PARTNER HAVE TAKEN MEDICATION.

WHAT HAPPENS IF CHLAMYDIA GOES UNTREATED?

IF A PERSON IS NOT TREATED FOR CHLAMYDIA, COMPLICATIONS MAY OCCUR. WOMEN CAN FREQUENTLY DEVELOP PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE, MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET PREGNANT OR MAY HAVE TUBAL PREGNANCIES, OR HAVE CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN. IN MEN, UNTREATED CHLAMYDIA CAN CAUSE URETHRAL INFECTION AND COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS SWOLLEN AND TENDER TESTICLES. CHLAMYDIA INFECTION DURING PREGNANCY MAY CAUSE HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR THE BABY DURING BIRTH. IF A WOMEN IS INFECTED THREE OR MORE TIMES, SHE MAY BE UNABLE TO GET PREGNANT EVEN IF CHLAMYDIA IS TREATED PROMPTLY EACH TIME.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CHLAMYDIA?

LIMIT YOUR NUMBER OF SEX PARTNERS. USE PROTECTION UNTIL YOU ARE SURE YOUR PARTNER IS NOT INFECTED.