



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Chlamydia

Chlamydia is caused by a germ that infects the bladder, vagina, uterus, or penis. The infection may or may not have symptoms. It can only be gotten by sexual contact either genital, mouth or anal. If the symptoms do appear, they may show up in 1 week to one month after exposure.

Symptoms:

Men:

- pain and burning with peeing
- frequent peeing
- pain or swelling in testicles
- low-grade fever
- burning and itching around the opening of the penis
- watery or milky discharge from penis

Women:

- irregular vaginal bleeding
- burning with peeing
- itching and burning in the genital area
- vaginal discharge
- lower stomach pain often with nausea and fever

Since many people have few or no symptoms, the chance of spreading the infection increases. Early detection may prevent some problems. The benefit of treatment is having fewer problems afterwards.

Diagnosis:

To diagnose the problem a culture of the cervical mucous needs to be done.

Complications:

- Genital and bladder infections
- Ear, head, and lung infections
- Ectopic pregnancies (pregnancy that occurs outside the uterus)
- Tubal infertility (scarring in the fallopian tubes)
- Acute epididymitis in individuals (swelling of sperm duct)
- Reiters syndrome- joint pain, eye swelling, and sores on the skin

Risk to newborn:

- conjunctivitis (infection of the eye)
- pneumonia

Treatment:

The infection is usually treated with antibiotics for 7-14 days. Please take all the pills even if you are feeling better.

Remember there may be very few symptoms. Testing and treatment are quick and painless. Please call if you suspect a problem is happening.