



STIs



Symptoms & Risks

Of patients who have a Chlamydia infection at the time of an abortion, 23% will develop Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) within 4 weeks.¹

What is Gonorrhoea?²

Definition:

A sexually transmitted infection caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract in both women and men. Gonorrhoea can cause infection in the genitals, rectum, and throat.

Many women and men have NO SYMPTOMS of Gonorrhoea.

Symptoms may take up to 30 days to appear.

Symptoms of Gonorrhoea in women:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Painful or burning sensation with urination
- Vaginal bleeding between menstrual periods

Symptoms of Gonorrhoea in men:

- White, yellow, or green discharge from the penis
- Burning sensation with urination
- Painful or swollen testicles

Men and women who have additional STIs are up to 5x more likely to get HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.³

What is Chlamydia?

Definition:

A sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which can cause serious and permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system. This can make it difficult or impossible for her to get pregnant later on. Chlamydia can also cause a potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy (when the pregnancy implants outside of the uterus). Chlamydia is the most prevalent STI.

Use of hormonal contraceptives (birth control pills) can increase your risk of contracting Chlamydia.⁵

75% of women who are infected with Chlamydia do not know they have it, because they have NO SYMPTOMS.

Symptoms may take 1-3 weeks to appear.

Symptoms of Chlamydia in women:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Burning sensation with urination
- Lower abdominal pain
- Lower back pain

Symptoms of Chlamydia in men:

- Discharge from the penis
- Burning sensation with urination
- Burning and itching around the urethra (the opening of the penis)

Treatment for STIs⁶

- Treatment for an STI should be done before having an abortion.
- Do not have sex during treatment.
- Notify all sex partners that you have an STI so they may be tested and treated.
- Women whose partners have not been properly treated are at a high risk for re-infection. Multiple Chlamydia infections further increase the risk of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and ectopic pregnancy.
- You should be re-tested for STIs 3-4 months after finishing your treatment, regardless of whether you believe that your sex partners were successfully treated.

“The only way to avoid STIs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex.”

-U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

What is PID? ⁷

Definition:

- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is a broad term that refers to infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and other reproductive organs in women.
- PID is a common and serious complication of some sexually transmitted infections (STIs), especially Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, if left untreated.
- PID is a cause of infertility, ectopic pregnancy (when the pregnancy implants outside of the uterus), and chronic pelvic pain.
- PID risk is highest among sexually active women, particularly those with multiple sex partners or a history of STI.
- Black women are more than twice as likely to contract PID than white women with similar health histories.

Sources

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