



Chlamydia

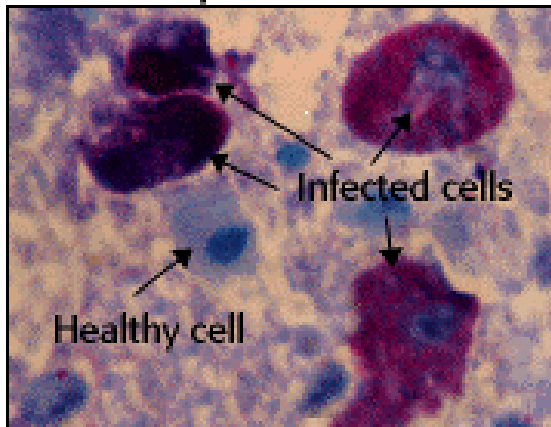
What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia trachomatis is a bacterium that commonly infects the genitals, specifically, the cervix and the urethra. It can also infect the anus, and less commonly, the eye and throat.

How is it transmitted?

It is transmitted by vaginal, anal or less commonly, oral sex.

Chlamydia trachomatis



What are the signs and symptoms?

Men:

Some men do not have any signs and symptoms. Those that do may have:

- Soreness or redness at the opening of the penis.
- Stinging or burning when passing urine.
- Clear or whitish discharge from the penis.

If **not** treated, Chlamydia can spread to the testes, leading to pain and swelling of the testicles.

Women:

Most women do not have any signs and symptoms. Those that do may have:

- Unusual vaginal discharge.
- Unusual bleeding, especially after sex.
- Pelvic pain, including pain during sexual intercourse.
- Stinging or burning when passing urine.

If **not** treated, Chlamydia can spread into the uterus and tubes resulting in Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), a condition that can cause infertility.



How do you test for Chlamydia?

We test for Chlamydia by either taking a swab from the penis in male or cervix in female. It can also be done by using a urine sample. If anal infection is suspected, a swab from the anus is taken.

How is Chlamydia treated?

Chlamydia can be treated very effectively with oral antibiotics such as azithromycin or doxycycline. At the HKSHC, we usually prescribe a single, oral dose of azithromycin. However, if infection has led to complications such as PID or testicular infection, a longer course of treatment is given.

How long does it take the symptoms to go away after treatment?

The symptoms will usually start to ease in a day or so. If you are still having symptoms after a week, you should return for a review.

When is it safe to have sex again?

To give the antibiotics time to work, you should use condoms or not have sex for one week after finishing your treatment.



Do I need further tests after I've been treated?

Yes. To check that you haven't been re-infected with Chlamydia, we suggest you have a repeat test in 3 months and have a test for HIV also.

Should my sexual partners also be treated?

Yes. If you are treated for Chlamydia but a sexual partner is not, you could get infected again. It is extremely important to tell all your recent sexual partners that you have been diagnosed with Chlamydia and ask them to be tested and treated. If you have difficulty telling your partners, we have letters you can send to them, or trained staff who can do this for you without telling anyone your name.

How do I avoid getting infected again?

Make sure sexual partners get tested and treated for Chlamydia. Practicing safe sex by always using condoms is the best way to prevent further infections.



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This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on Chlamydia. It is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor. All clients are strongly advised to check with their doctor about any specific questions or concerns they may have. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information in this pamphlet is correct at the time of printing, June 2007.

CHLAMYDIA



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