

Tests and treatment

To test for chlamydia, your doctor will ask you for a sample of urine. Most men will not require any more testing, but women usually also need a swab taken from the vagina (which you may do for yourself if you prefer).

If your test is positive, your doctor will prescribe antibiotic treatment. Usually, this means one dose of a very effective antibiotic.

Your sexual partners should also get tested and treated.

Do not have unsafe sex while you or your partner are taking the treatment. You could infect each other again.

Do not drink alcohol while taking the treatment. The alcohol will reduce the effectiveness of the treatment. You might also forget about having safe sex.

Protecting yourself and your partner

The safest ways to protect against chlamydia and other STIs are to:

Always use condoms.

Condoms are the best way to protect you both from chlamydia and some other STIs.

Limit your sex partners.

The fewer people you have sex with, the less chance you have of finding a partner with the infection.

Be honest.

If you have chlamydia or any other STI, you need to be up front about it. Talking about STIs can be really difficult, but any person you have sex with has a right to know if you have an STI. Plan to discuss it when you're feeling relaxed and confident – not just before you have sex. Your partner will appreciate your honesty.

Remember, most people don't have a clue they've got chlamydia. If you think you're at risk, visit a GP as soon as possible and ask for an STI check-up.

Where to go for testing and treatment

Most of these services are free. Phone first to see if you need an appointment. Confidential tests and treatment are available from your GP or a doctor of your choice, or you could visit one of these metropolitan clinics:

Fremantle Hospital

Infectious Diseases, B2 Clinic
Alma Street, Fremantle
(08) 9431 2149

Royal Perth Hospital Sexual Health Clinic

Ainslie House, Murray St, Perth
(08) 9224 2178

FPWA (Family Planning WA)

70 Roe Street, Northbridge
(08) 9227 6177 or 1800 198 205 toll-free

Quarry Health Centre (For under 25's)

Rear, 7 Quarry Street, Fremantle
(08) 9430 4544

Women's Health Care House

100 Aberdeen Street, Northbridge
(09) 9227 8122 or 1800 998 399 toll-free

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service (Perth Aboriginal Medical Service)

156 Wittenoom Street, Perth
(08) 9421 3888

Regional services

Here are some regional Population Health Units that can help you:

Albany	(08) 9892 2662
Broome	(08) 9192 5333
Bunbury	(08) 9792 2500
Carnarvon	(08) 9941 0560
Geraldton	(08) 9956 1950
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	(08) 9021 2622
Northam	(08) 9622 4320
South Hedland	(08) 9140 2377

More information

For more information on chlamydia and other STIs, contact:

Communicable Disease Control Directorate

Department of Health, Telephone: (08) 9388 4999

Email: cdc@health.wa.gov.au Web: www.couldihaveit.com.au

or

HealthInfo 1300 135 030

or

Sexual Health Helpline

(08) 9227 6178 (metro)

1800 198 205 (country)



CHLAMYDIA

CHLAMYDIA.
MOST
PEOPLE
HAVEN'T GOT
A CLUE.

HD0005/HP264-1MAY05/IN20238

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a disease you can catch by having unprotected sex with an infected person.

It's the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Australia, particularly among young people between 15 and 25 years of age, and it can have serious effects for both men and women.

The trouble is, most people don't realise they have it, because they don't see or feel anything wrong. So, without knowing it, they continue to pass chlamydia on to their partners.

Unless it's found and treated early, chlamydia can lead to infertility in both men and women.

Pregnant women can pass chlamydia on to their babies, who can then develop infections of the eye, nose, throat, or lungs.

Having chlamydia also makes it easier for you to catch HIV

– and, if you already have HIV, it can make you more infectious.

Fortunately, there are simple tests for chlamydia, and there's a simple treatment.

Could you have chlamydia?

You are most at risk of chlamydia if:

- you are under 25
- you've changed sex partners in the last 12 months
- you've had more than one sexual partner in the last 12 months
- you're not using condoms
- you or your sex partner has another STI.

Chlamydia can be passed on by vaginal, oral or anal sex.

If you fit into any of these risk categories, visit a doctor as soon as possible and ask for an STI check-up. It's simple.

Have you changed sexual partners or had more than one partner recently?
Have you had unprotected sex? For more information visit www.couldihaveit.com.au

What happens to women?

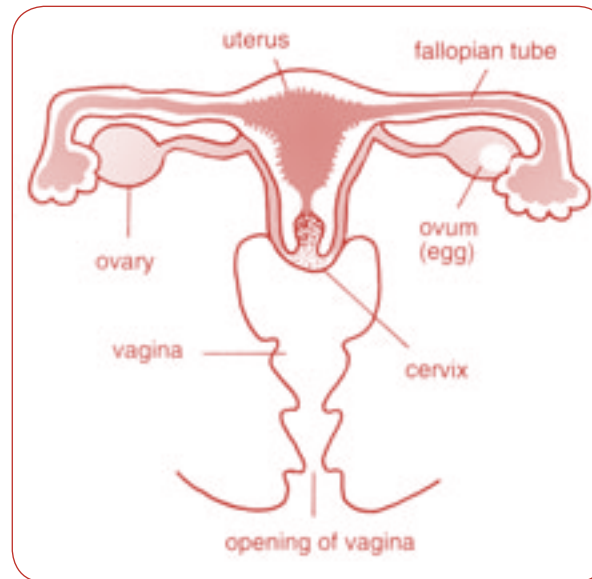
Without early treatment, women and girls can get infections in their cervix, uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes.

Female symptoms

Remember, around three quarters of all girls and women who have chlamydia don't notice any signs at all.

Others notice:

- a burning feeling when urinating
- unusual vaginal discharge
- lower abdominal (tummy) pain
- pain during sex
- unusual bleeding, or spotting, between periods.

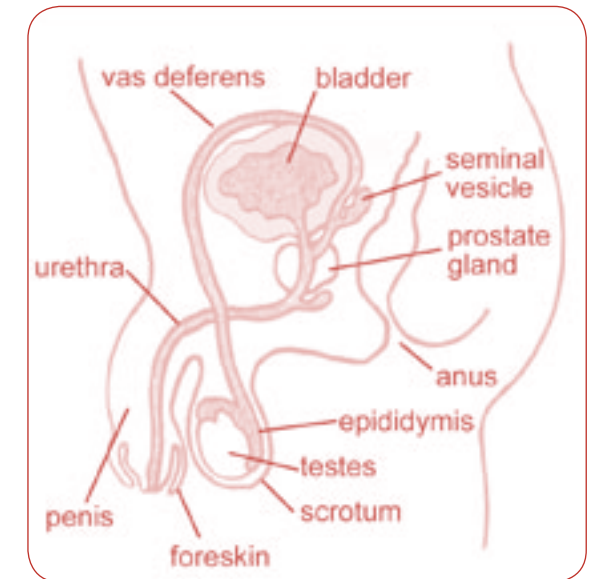


One or more attacks of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease can damage the fallopian tubes, which become scarred. This damage can prevent fertilisation. It can also prevent a fertilised egg from getting into the uterus, causing an ectopic pregnancy (ie, the egg grows in the fallopian tube) which requires emergency surgery and can be fatal.

**If you have any of these symptoms,
visit a doctor **AS SOON AS** possible
and ask for an **STI check-up.**
It's simple.**

What happens to men?

If the infection isn't identified and treated early, men can develop prostatitis (infection and swelling of the prostate gland), epididymitis (inflammation in the testicles) and infertility.



Male symptoms

Some males with chlamydia will get some signs, but at least half will have none at all.

Signs to watch for:

- whitish or yellow discharge from the penis
- burning or pain when urinating
- irritation or soreness around the urethra (the opening of the penis)