

## *What is Chlamydia?*

Chlamydia is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that affects anyone. Untreated, it can cause damage to a woman's reproductive system, making it difficult for her to get pregnant later in life. Chlamydia can also increase risk for ectopic pregnancy (where the egg develops outside the uterus).

- **How can I get chlamydia?**

Chlamydia is spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has chlamydia. If you were treated for chlamydia once, you can still become infected again. Additionally, if infected, you can pass chlamydia to your child during birth.

- **How can I tell if I have chlamydia?**

Most people who have chlamydia show no symptoms. If symptoms do occur in women, they may include abnormal vaginal discharge or a burning feeling while you pee. Chlamydia can be diagnosed using either a urine test or a vaginal cotton swab.

- **Can chlamydia be cured?**

Chlamydia can be cured with antibiotics. Repeat infection is common and you should be tested again a few months after you've been treated.

## *What is Gonorrhea?*

Gonorrhea is an STI that can affect anyone through an infection in the vagina, penis, rectum, or throat. It is most common among young people ages 15-24 years old. Untreated gonorrhea can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can cause infertility and long-term pelvic and abdominal pain.

- **How can I get gonorrhea?**

Gonorrhea is spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has gonorrhea. A pregnant woman can also give the infection to her baby during childbirth.

- **How can I tell if I have gonorrhea?**

Most men and women with gonorrhea do not have any symptoms and even when symptoms occur, they can be mistaken for a bladder or vaginal infection. Symptoms in women can include a painful or burning feeling when you pee, increased vaginal discharge or vaginal bleeding between periods, sore throat, or painful bowel movements. Gonorrhea can be diagnosed using a urine test, samples from the throat or rectum, or a swab of the cervix.

- **Can gonorrhea be cured?**

Gonorrhea can be cured using antibiotics. However, after being treated you can still get the infection again.

## *What is Trichomoniasis?*

Trichomoniasis (trich) is the most common STI and it affects around 3.7 million people in the United States alone. The infection is also more common in older aged women. If untreated, trich can increase the risk for HIV, pre-term birth, and cause other complications during pregnancy.

- **How can I get trichomoniasis?**

Trich is spread through sex by any genital fluid (semen, vaginal lubrication, discharge, or menstrual blood).

- **How can I tell if I have trichomoniasis?**

Most people infected with trich do not develop any symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they range from mild irritation to severe inflammation including discomfort while peeing, changes in vaginal discharge, and itching, burning, redness, or soreness of the genitals. For women, a sample of discharge from a pelvic exam or a urine test can be used to diagnose the infection.

- **Can trichomoniasis be cured?**

Trich can easily be cured with antibiotics. After treatment, you can still get the infection again.

All three infections are extremely common and curable, yet often go untreated because of a lack of testing. Because most people display no symptoms, if you are sexually active, it is important to get tested each year. Additionally, if your sexual partner has one of these infections, you should get treated. The number one method of prevention against STIs is the use of condoms during sex.

For more information about STIs, or to learn more about symptoms in men, please visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).