

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by the *Chlamydia trachomatis* bacteria.

CHLAMYDIA









TRANSMISSION

It can be contracted through sex without a condom with an infected person through anal, vaginal or oral sex. Pregnant women can transmit the disease to their child.



SYMPTOMS

Over 70% of women and 50% of men infected with chlamydia display no symptoms. When they do appear, they generally do so 2-14 days after sex, although they may appear up to 21 days later. Symptoms may include:



In women

- Changes in the colour, smell or amount of vaginal discharge
- Bleeding between periods or more abundant periods
- Bleeding after sex
- Burning sensation when urinating
- There may be pain or discomfort in the lower abdomen
- If untreated, it may cause pelvic inflammatory disease



In men

- Burning sensation when urinating
- Discharge at the end of the penis
- Irritation or pain around the urethra
- Pain or discomfort in the testicles
- Dryness or pain in the throat

Both in men and in women, when the infection is in the rectum, often no symptoms appear. They do, however, exist and may cause pain, secretion or rectal bleeding.



DIAGNOSIS

It can be diagnosed with samples taken from the pharynx and/or rectum. For urethra infection, a urine analysis is usually done.



TREATMENT

The infection is cured with an antibiotic. Treatment does not provide lifetime protection and it is therefore possible to contract the infection again.



PREVENTION



Use of a condom reduces the risk of infection in vaginal, anal or oral sex. If sex toys are shared, a new condom should be used for each person and each sexual practice. Sex should be avoided until the treatment is complete and the symptoms disappear.