

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Testing

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are sexually transmitted infections (STIs). They are spread from:

- one person to another through vaginal, anal or oral sex
- a woman to a baby before or during birth.

How Do You Know if You Have an STI?

- Chlamydia usually doesn't cause symptoms in men or women. This means you can be infected but not feel sick.
 - Symptoms in women may be:
 - unusual vaginal discharge
 - discomfort or pain when urinating.
 - Symptoms in men may be:
 - discharge from the penis
 - burning feeling when urinating
 - pain and swelling in one or both testicles.
- Gonorrhea usually doesn't cause symptoms in men or women.
 - Symptoms in women may be:
 - painful or burning feeling when urinating
 - yellow or bloody vaginal discharge.
 - Symptoms in men may be:
 - burning feeling when urinating
 - white, yellow or green discharge.

The only way to know for sure if you have an STI is to get tested.

How do You Test for an STI?

- Both chlamydia and gonorrhea can be tested by:
 - urine test (men and women)
 - vaginal or cervical swab (women)
 - urethral swab (men)
 - rectum or throat swab (men and women).

Who Should Get Tested?

- Women:
 - If you are age 24 or younger and having sex, get tested once every year.
 - If you are age 25 or older, get tested if you have more than one sex partner, a new sex partner or if you are pregnant.
- Men:
 - If you have sex with men and are sexually active, get tested once every year for an infection in the urethra, rectum or both.
- Women and men:
 - Get tested right away if:
 - you are sexually active and notice any symptoms
 - your sex partner has been told they have an STI.

(over)

Whom Do You Call for a Test?

Call your clinic to make an appointment. You can also find a location by going to [gettested.cdc.gov](https://www.gettested.cdc.gov).

How are STIs Treated?

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are easy to cure when they are treated.

Your health care provider will give you a prescription for an antibiotic. Take the medicine as directed. Do not stop taking it even if you feel better.

What Happens if STIs are Not Treated?

If left untreated, STIs can cause serious health problems.

■ Women:

- Untreated chlamydia and gonorrhea can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease. This is an inflammation of the female reproductive organs. It can cause chronic (long-term) pelvic pain or make getting pregnant difficult or impossible.

■ Men:

- Untreated chlamydia and gonorrhea can put young men at risk of infection of their testicles causing pain and fever. It can also keep them from fathering children.

How Long Can STIs Be Spread?

- An infection can last for years if it is not treated.
- You can get either chlamydia or gonorrhea any time you are exposed — even if you've been treated for it before.
- It is important to get treated right away and tell anyone you had sex with that you have an STI so they can be treated.
 - If you have a single dose antibiotic, **do not** have sex for 7 days.
 - If you have a 7-day course of antibiotics, **do not** have sex until you have taken all of the medicine.
 - Do not have sex with partner(s) until they have been treated.

“Women” refers to people born with female reproductive organs.

“Men” refers to people born with male reproductive organs.