

Chlamydia Screening in Women Ages 21-24



What is it?¹

- Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) that can cause infection in both men and women.
- Chlamydia can cause permanent damage to the female reproductive system.
- Chlamydia is most often spread by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has it.
- If you are sexually active, it's important to be tested regularly and use condoms during every sexual encounter.

How do I know if I have it?

- Chlamydia can have no symptoms, but it can cause major health problems.
- If symptoms occur, they may not show until weeks after your sexual encounter with the infected partner.
- Symptoms in women include abnormal vaginal discharge or burning sensation when peeing.
- Symptoms in men include discharge from penis, burning sensation when peeing, pain, and swelling in one or both testicles.
- Both men and women can get chlamydia in their rectum. Symptoms include rectal discharge, pain, and/or bleeding.

How do I treat it?

- Your doctor will complete lab tests, urine tests, or vaginal swabs to confirm if you have chlamydia.
- Take any prescribed medicines as directed. Do not share your medicines.
- Avoid sex until you and/or your partner are cleared of the infection.
- Chlamydia is curable. Follow all doctor instructions.

If you do not treat chlamydia, the infection can easily spread with each encounter. This may lead to serious health problems. A pregnant parent can even spread it to their unborn child. Left untreated, chlamydia can increase your chances of getting HIV.

What should I do?

- Remain calm.
- Practice safer sex practices.
- Talk with your doctor.
- Routine screening is key to detection and treatment. If you are sexually active and under the age of 24, you should get screened for chlamydia regularly. You should also get screened if you are over 25 and at an increased risk of infection. Talk with your doctor about what is right for you.

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm>