

# Chlamydia

## Chlamydia

### Overview

Chlamydia is a bacterial sexually transmitted infection. It manifests primarily as a watery discharge in males. In females, it usually manifests as vaginal discharge or intermenstrual vaginal bleeding.

A pregnant woman can also pass it to her child during childbirth. Chlamydia can recur when unprotected sex is done with someone infected.

### How can chlamydia be transmitted?

Chlamydia can be transmitted during oral, vaginal or anal sex with someone who is infected with it.

### What are the symptoms of chlamydia?

Chlamydia doesn't usually cause symptoms, and some people may not realize having it. Although for some women, symptoms may include:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge that may be accompanied by a strong smell
- A burning sensation when urinating
- Fever or nausea

For some men, the symptoms may include:

- Discharge from the penis
- A burning sensation when urinating
- Itching around the opening of the penis

### How can chlamydia be diagnosed?

Laboratory tests can be performed to diagnose chlamydia. Urine samples may be collected to diagnose the infection. For women, a cotton swab may be used to obtain a vaginal sample to test for chlamydia.

### How can chlamydia be prevented?

Preventing vaginal, anal or oral sex is the best prevention, but the correct use of latex condoms can help reduce, although not entirely eliminate, the risk of getting infected.