

CHLAMYDIA IN MALES

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. It is caused by bacteria called *Chlamydia trachomatis*, and often starts as an infection of the cervix. Men may develop a nonspecific urethritis with a discharge from the penis and swollen testes. Symptoms may be similar to those of gonorrhea but will persist after treatment for gonorrhea is completed.

Symptoms

One in five infected men will have no symptoms. When symptoms are present, they may include

- Discharge (drip) from the penis that is usually white or clear
- Pain or burning during urination
- More frequent urination
- Pain or swelling in and around the testicles

Expected Course

The outcome of a chlamydial infection depends on

- How long you have been infected
- The extent of the infection
- The number of previous chlamydial infections you have had

If only the urethra is infected, proper treatment should clear up the infection in about 10 days.

Untreated chlamydia can lead to scarring of the urethra, inability to urinate normally, and inflammation of the testicles (which can cause sterility).

Treatment

Antibiotic treatment is usually successful. Reinfection may occur if you do not take the medications as instructed or if both sexual partners are not treated.

Treatment for uncomplicated chlamydial infection involves one of three antibiotics:

- 100-mg tablet of doxycycline taken 2 times daily for 7 days
- 500 mg tetracycline taken 4 times daily for 7 days
- 500 mg erythromycin taken 4 times daily for 7 days

Your treatment is _____

Prevention

Abstinence is the best way to avoid chlamydia infection. Proper use of condoms also helps prevent transmission of STDs. Tell your partner about your infection, because she also must be treated, even if she has no symptoms. Do not have sex until both partners have finished all medications.

Contact Our Office

If your symptoms get worse, or if you have any other questions or concerns.