

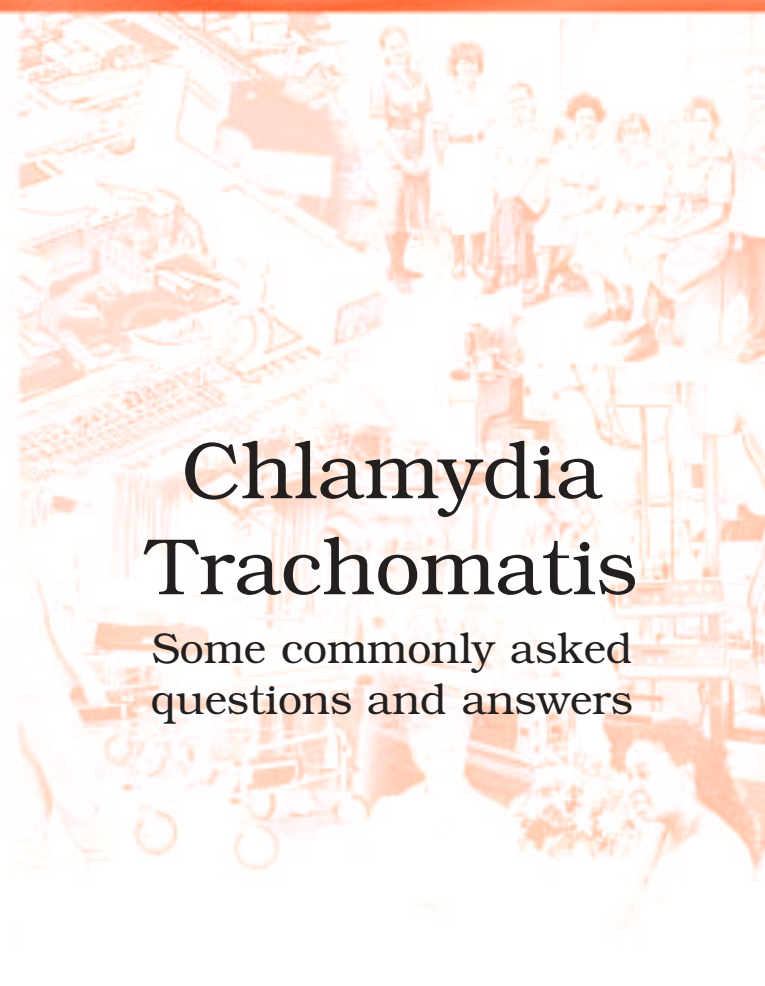
What effect can Chlamydia have on me?

If left untreated, Chlamydia can cause serious problems.

Some women with Chlamydia (up to 1 in 5) may suffer from pelvic inflammatory disease (infection in the lower abdomen).

This can lead to pain, ectopic pregnancy (when a pregnancy develops outside the womb) and infertility (difficulty in getting pregnant).

For further information about Chlamydia speak to your doctor. You may also phone your local GUM clinic or phone 0151 702 4266.



Chlamydia Trachomatis

Some commonly asked questions and answers

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually shared infection in the country. It affects both men and women.

Yet most people who are infected have no outward symptoms and will be unaware that they have Chlamydia.

Young people are particularly at risk if they have ever been sexually active.

How is Chlamydia passed on?

It can be passed on in the following ways:

- Having sex with someone who has Chlamydia. This may have been recently or many months or years earlier.
- By a mother to her baby at birth.
- By passing the infection on fingers from the genitals into the eyes.

What symptoms will I have?

As already mentioned, most people will not have symptoms. If they do, they can include:

In women

- An unusual vaginal discharge
- Bleeding after sex
- Bleeding between periods
- Abdominal or pelvic pain
- Pain during sex
- The need to pass urine more often or pain when passing urine.

In men

- Discharge from the penis which may be white/cloudy and watery
- A burning sensation when passing urine
- Swollen and/or painful testicles

In women and men

- Appendicitis
- Upper abdominal pain
- Painful swelling and irritation in the eyes
- Inflamed joints
- Occasionally a rash on the soles of the feet and genitals

How can I find out if I have Chlamydia?

You can have a swab taken which will show whether or not you have this infection.

In some places, a urine test is available to detect Chlamydia infection.

Where can I be treated?

A Chlamydia test is available at:

- Your GP surgery
- Family Planning clinic
- Well Women's clinic
- Genito-urinary Medicine clinic (GUM clinic).

The local GUM clinic is held at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, telephone: 0151 706 2621.

Can Chlamydia be treated?

Chlamydia can be easily treated with antibiotics.

Your partner will also need to be treated with antibiotics to prevent you becoming re-infected.