



ITHACA COLLEGE

Hammond Health Center

Student Health Information Chlamydia

Chlamydia is one of the most common STIs (Sexually Transmitted Illnesses) in the U.S. It is a bacteria that you can become infected with through sexual contact with someone else who is infected. You are at an increased risk of a chlamydial infection if you have sex with a new partner, have many sexual partners, or if you do not use a condom every time you have sex.

Symptoms

At first, symptoms may be absent or mild. People who are asymptomatic but infectious may transmit the infection to others without knowing it. Those with symptoms usually start to notice them within 2-4 weeks after exposure.

Men

- Discharge from the penis
- Burning when urinating
- Burning and itching around the opening of the penis
- Pain in the testicles
- Pain during sexual intercourse

Women

- Vaginal itching or discharge
- Burning when urinating
- Lower abdominal pain
- Bleeding between menstrual periods
- Low grade fever
- Pain during sexual intercourse

Testing is performed by urine sample or by inserting a swab in the vagina which is then sent to the lab.

Treatment

Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics. Make sure you tell your partner or anyone you had sex with that you have the infection so they can be treated as well. If left untreated, it can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (infection and inflammation of the female reproductive organs), infertility, and ectopic pregnancy in women. In men, it can cause swelling in the testicles and prostate which may affect fertility.

Prevention

- Use condoms every time you have sex
- Communicate with your partner about STI issues
- Limit your number of sexual partners
- Get regular STI screening check ups

Updated April 2012, Source - American Academy of Family Practice Resources