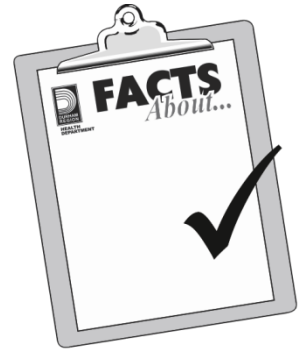




FACTS

About...



HEALTH DEPARTMENT



CHLAMYDIA

What is it?

Chlamydia (CT) is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by bacteria. Many people do not have symptoms and are not aware they have this infection. If left untreated CT can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women, a serious infection of the uterus and fallopian tubes. PID can increase the risk of ectopic or tubal pregnancy and can cause infertility. In males, CT can make it hard to pass urine and can cause sterility. CT can also cause infection of the eyes, throat, joints and blood.

Chlamydia is a reportable infection and must be reported to the Health Department.

How is it spread?

CT is spread by direct contact with fluids of an infected person, through oral, vaginal or anal sex. A woman with CT can pass the infection on to her newborn at the time of birth. It is important to tell all sexual partners within the past 60 days that you have an infection. They will need to be tested and, if necessary, receive treatment. If you prefer, a nurse from the Health Department can contact your partner(s). All information including your name will be kept confidential.

What do I look for?

Often there are no symptoms in men and women. If symptoms appear, men may feel burning during urination, discharge from the penis, and pain in testicles. Symptoms in women may include a burning sensation during urination, abnormal vaginal discharge, lower abdominal pain and abnormal vaginal bleeding.

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For more information

Durham Region Health Department

905-666-6241 1-800-841-2729 durham.ca

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



How do you test for it?

A urine sample can be sent to the lab to test for CT. A swab from the penis, cervix, throat, or rectum may also be taken if needed.

How is it treated?

CT is treated with antibiotics. It is important that the antibiotics are taken as ordered, even if you no longer have symptoms, if not, the infection may not be cured. **Inform your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding to ensure the medication is safe.**

How can I protect myself?

- Take antibiotics as directed until finished
- You can have sex again 7 days after you and your partner(s) have finished treatment and are no longer infectious
- Use condoms with lubricant to lower the chance of infections
- It is recommended that you return to your health care provider 6 months after treatment for a repeat test

November 18, 2019

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