



CHLAMYDIA and GONORRHEA SCREENING

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are sexually transmitted infections of the genital tract. If you are a woman 25 years of age or younger who has ever had sex, we recommend screening for chlamydia. Screening for both gonorrhea and chlamydia is recommended for sexually active women of any age who are at high risk: women who have had prior gonorrhea infection or other sexually transmitted infection, those with new partners or a history of multiple sexual partners, or inconsistent condom use.

- 1 out of 10 women under the age of 25 is infected with chlamydia or gonorrhea and most (75-80%) have no symptoms.
- Half of men with chlamydia or gonorrhea have no symptoms.

Unfortunately, these infections can cause serious complications. Of those women infected, 1-2 out of 5 will develop infection in the uterus and fallopian tubes (called pelvic inflammatory disease, or PID). This can lead to:

- Infertility
- Chronic pelvic pain
- Life-threatening tubal pregnancy
- A pregnant woman can pass it to her newborn with serious consequences.

Condoms decrease the risk but don't entirely eliminate it. Screening consists of a painless sample taken from the cervix at the same time as a pap smear.

Although this testing is widely recommended by all public health agencies, not all insurance companies cover the screening of women without symptoms. The cost of each test is approximately \$80. Please consider paying for the test yourself if it is not paid for by your health insurance.

Men can have complications of chlamydia and gonorrhea, too, such as infertility. Men can also be tested. Infection in men is more likely to cause symptoms such as:

- Penile discharge
- Burning on urination
- Testicular pain

Feel free to ask us for more information, or go to the American Social Health Association website at www.ashastd.org.

