

Chlamydia

Often called "The Silent Infection" Chlamydia is the UK's most common sexually transmitted infection. It is also the easiest to cure.

It is caused by a bacteria and is very easily passed on. It has high rates of infection amongst young people.

It can be passed on through unprotected anal or vaginal sex with an infected person and can also be transmitted from a mother to her baby during birth.

Chlamydia can also be transmitted on fingers from one person to another.

Chlamydia often presents very few signs or symptoms, so many people can have the infection and be totally unaware.

Nearly three quarters (70%) of women and half (50%) of all men with Chlamydia have no signs or symptoms.

For those that do show symptoms, these often appear one to three weeks after getting infected:-

In Women

Lower abdominal pain, bleeding after sex, bleeding in between periods, unusual vaginal discharge and pain when passing urine.

In Men

Discharge from the penis and pain when passing urine.

If left untreated, Chlamydia can cause serious medical problems, but can be treated with antibiotics.

It can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility in women. The infection scars and narrows the tubes which carry a fertilised egg to the womb and the egg can get stuck in these tubes and start to grow there instead of the womb. This is called an ectopic pregnancy and can be a life threatening condition in women.

In men it can lead to a painful infection in the testicles and reduced fertility.

Chlamydia can also affect the throat and eyes.

If you have a rectal infection there are rarely any symptoms, but you may have a discharge and it can be painful.

Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics.