

WHAT IS GONORRHEA?²

- **Definition:** A sexually transmitted disease caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract in women and men. It can cause infections in the genitals, rectum, and throat.
- Many women and men have NO SYMPTOMS of Gonorrhea.
- Symptoms can take up to 30 days to appear.
- Symptoms of Gonorrhea in women include:
 - Painful or burning sensation when urinating
 - Increased vaginal discharge
 - Vaginal bleeding between menstrual periods
- Symptoms of Gonorrhea in men include:
 - Burning sensation when urinating
 - White, yellow, or green discharge from the penis
 - Painful or swollen testicles

Men and women who have any other STDs are up to five times more likely to get HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.³

WHAT IS CHLAMYDIA?⁴

- **Definition:** A common sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which can cause serious, permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system. This can make it difficult or impossible for her to get pregnant later on. Chlamydia can also cause a potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy that occurs outside the womb). Chlamydia is the most prevalent STD.
- Use of hormonal contraceptives increases your risk of contracting Chlamydia.⁵
- 75% of women who are infected with Chlamydia do not know they have it, because they have NO SYMPTOMS.
- Symptoms can take 1-3 weeks to appear after exposure.
- Most common symptoms of Chlamydia in women include:
 - Abnormal vaginal discharge
 - Burning sensation with urination
 - Lower abdominal pain
 - Low back pain
 - Painful intercourse
- Most common symptoms of Chlamydia in men include:
 - Discharge from the penis
 - Burning sensation with urination
 - Burning and itching around the opening of the penis

TREATMENT FOR STDs⁶

- Treatment for an STD should be done before having an abortion.
- Do not have sex during treatment of an STD.
- Notify all sex partners that you have an STD so they can be tested and treated.
- Women whose partners have not been properly treated are at a high risk for re-infection. Multiple chlamydial infections increase the risk of PID and ectopic pregnancy.
- You should be re-tested for STDs 3-4 months after finishing treatment, regardless of whether you believe that your sex partners were successfully treated.

“The only way to avoid STDs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex.”

~US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention