

Learn the facts. Protect yourself. Get tested.

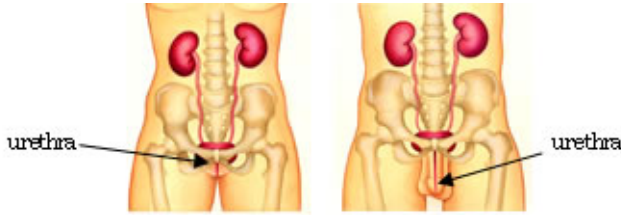
Chlamydia (klah-MIH-dee-ah)

sometimes called "burnin", "burnt" or "the clam"

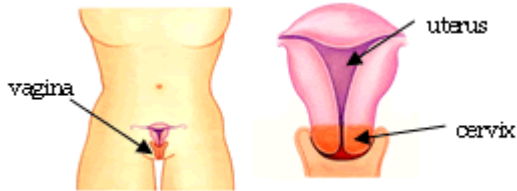
What is chlamydia?

It's caused by **bacteria** that can infect:

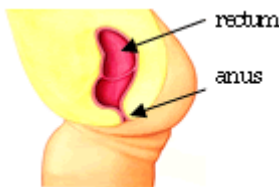
- the urethra



- the cervix



- or the rectum.



How do you get chlamydia?

If you have anal sex, oral sex, or vaginal sex **without a condom** with someone who has it, you can get it. It is passed through body fluids (like vaginal fluid or semen). It can also be passed from mother to baby during birth.

You can't get it from:

- kissing or hugging
- shaking hands
- sharing food or using the same dish
- sitting on public toilets

How do you know you have it?

Most people do not have symptoms.

A woman may have:

- unusual discharge (yellowish or white fluid) coming out of her vagina
- pain or burning when she urinates or has sex
- pain in her belly or back
- bleeding when it's not her period
- fever if she has a more severe infection

A man may have:

- discharge (thick white or watery stuff) coming out of his penis
- pain or burning when he urinates
- a heavy feeling or pain in his testicles (balls)
- pain, swelling or redness around his scrotum

What is the test like?



A doctor or nurse may wipe the area with a small swab or they may ask you for a sample of urine.



How is chlamydia treated?

It can be **cured** with medicine called **antibiotics** that you get from your health care provider.



Be sure your partner(s) sees a health care provider and get treated at the same time so that you don't pass the infection back and forth. You should also be sure to follow your health care provider's advice and take all of the pills you are given even if you start to feel better.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- You can choose not to have sex
- You can reduce your number of partners if you choose to have sex
- You can use condoms when you have sex
- You can talk with your partner(s) about STDs
- You can talk with your health care provider and get tested

To find out more about STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) or for information about where you can go to get tested, call (617) 983-6940 or visit www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/std

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control
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