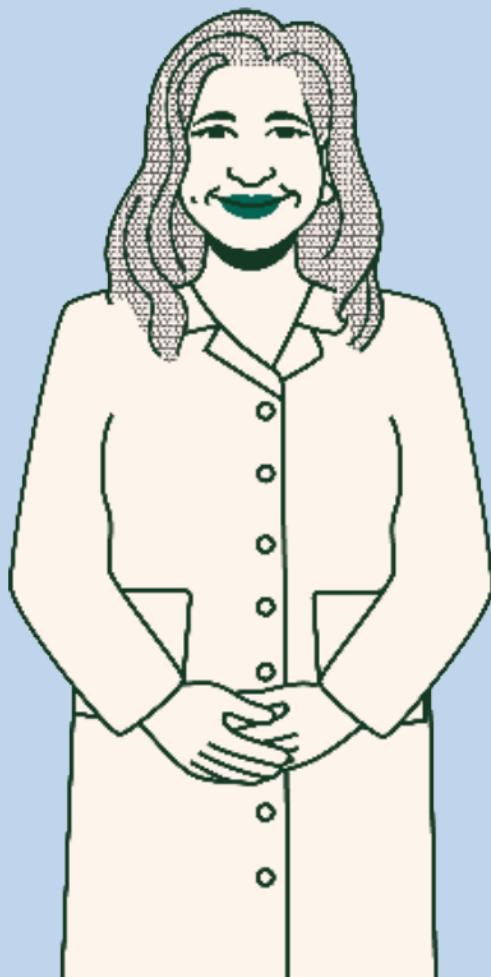


STDs

Symptoms

and Risks

Of patients who have a Chlamydia infection at the time of her abortion, 23% will develop Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) within 4 weeks.¹



INSIDE:
What is PID?
What STDs
am I at Risk of
Contracting?

What is PID?

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is a general term that refers to infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes, and other reproductive organs in women.

- PID is a common and serious complication of some sexually transmitted diseases, especially Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, when left untreated.
- PID is a cause of infertility and ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy growing outside the uterus), and chronic pelvic pain.
- PID risk is highest among sexually active women, particularly those with multiple partners or a history of STDs.
- Black women are more than twice as likely to contract PID than white women with similar health histories.

What is Chlamydia?⁴

Chlamydia is a common STD that can cause infection among both men and women. It can cause permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system. This can make it difficult or impossible to get pregnant later. Chlamydia can also cause a potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy that occurs outside the womb).

Use of hormonal contraceptive increases your risk of contracting Chlamydia.

Symptoms

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

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 STDs 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

What is Gonorrhea?²

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by infection with the *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacterium. *N. gonorrhoeae* infects the mucous membranes of the reproductive tract, including the cervix, uterus, and fallopian tubes in women, and the urethra in women and men. *N. gonorrhoeae* can also infect the mucous membranes of the mouth, throat, eyes, and rectum.

Symptoms

Many women 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

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

Sources Cited

1. T. Radberg, et al. "Chlamydia Trachomatis in Relation to Infections Following First Trimester Abortions," *Acta Obstetricia Gynecological* (Supp. 93), 54:478 (1980); L. Westergaard, "Significance of Cervical Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection in Post-abortal Pelvic Inflammatory Disease" *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 60(3):322-325, (1982); M. Chacko, et al, "Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection Sexually Active Adolescents: Prevalence and Risk Factors," *Pediatrics*, 73(6), (1984); M. Barbacci, et al., Post-Abortal Endometritis and Isolation of Chlamydia Trachomatis, "Obstetrics and Gynecology" 68(5):668-690, (1986); S. Duthrie, et al., "Morbidity After Termination of Pregnancy in First Trimester, *Genitourinary Medicine* 63(3): 182-187, (1987).
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea-detailed.htm> (accessed 5.3.23)
3. Hayes R, Watson-Jones D, Celum C, van de Wijgert J, Wasserheit J (2010). Treatment of sexually transmitted infections for HIV prevention: end of the road or new beginning? *AIDS*, 24(suppl 4); S15-S26; Peterman TA, Newman, DR, Maddox L, Schmitt K, Shiver S (2014). Extremely High Risk for HIV following a diagnosis of syphilis, men living in Florida, 2000-2011. *Pub Health Rep*, 129:164-169, Pathela P, Braunstein SL, Blank S, Schillinger JA (2913). HIV incidence among men with and those without sexually transmitted rectal infections: estimates from matching against an HIV case registry. *Clin Infect Dis*, 57:1203-1209.
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm#:~:text=Chlamydia%20is%20a%20common%20STD,that%20occurs%20outside%20the%20womb> (accessed 5.3.2023)
5. Baeten J et al. (2001). Hormonal contraception and risk of sexually transmitted disease acquisition: results from a prospective study. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 185(2):380-385.
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). Chlamydia Treatment and Care. Retrieved Jul 2017 from coc.gov/std/chlamydia/treatment.htm.
7. Kreisel K, Torrone E, Bernstein K, Hong J, Gorwitz R (2017). Prevalence of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease in Sexually Experienced Women of Reproductive Age - United States, 2013-2014. *MMWR. Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2017;66:80-83.

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet is designed to be an informational tool only and is not intended to replace medical advice or care from a qualified medical provider.

Ava

avahealthpdx.org