

Chlamydia infections during pregnancy

It is possible for infected mothers to transmit the pathogens to their newborns during birth. If children become infected, they will suffer a purulent form of conjunctivitis that will take months to heal. Inflammation of the lungs can also occur. Once the infection is diagnosed, antibiotic therapy can be administered even during pregnancy.

For this reason, a chlamydia screening has been a standard part of prenatal examinations for many years, and is also covered by health insurance in Germany.

Handed out by:

Practice stamp

Please note that information regarding reimbursement is only valid for patients who are either members of German statutory or private health insurance.

For patients insured by the public health system:

Statutory insurance schemes may not cover some medical treatments at all, or not in certain cases (for example, if they are elective). Patients must therefore pay for them on their own.

For current prices, please see the request form for individual medical treatments.

For patients insured privately:

Costs will be covered by private health insurance according to a valid medical fee schedule, provided there has been no prior exclusion of benefits.

Your physician will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this matter.

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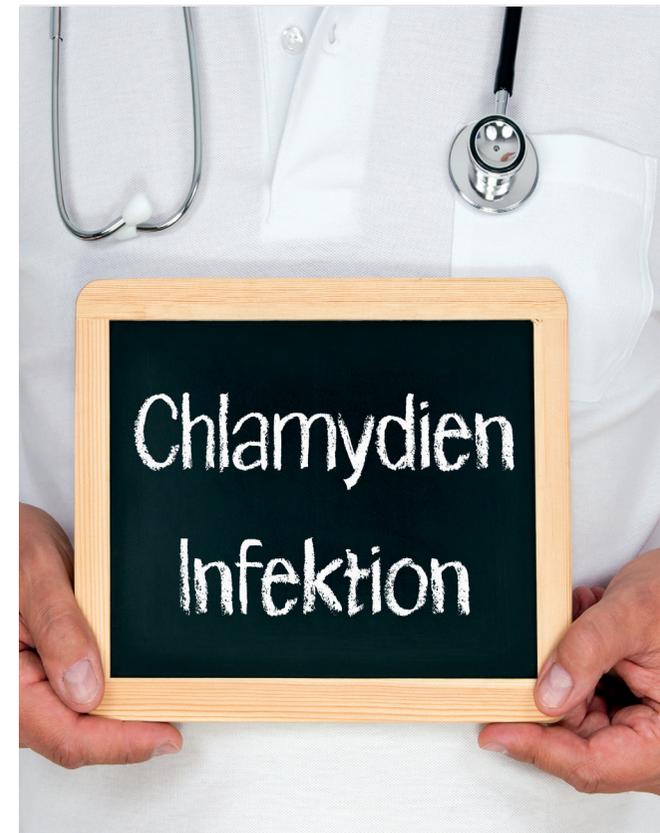
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Chlamydia

Chlamydia trachomatis



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What is Chlamydia trachomatis?

Chlamydia trachomatis is a bacterium that grows in human cells. It is an agent of sexually transmitted disease.

How can you catch chlamydia?

Chlamydia is transmitted by means of unprotected sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal or oral). Chlamydia trachomatis infections are one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases in the world.

In Germany, sexually active young people and young adults are hit hardest by this genital chlamydia (approximately 10%-20% of young women are infected; because there is no obligation to report it, its prevalence can only be estimated).

How can you protect yourself?

The risk of infection rises with the number of sex partners. The use of condoms significantly reduces this risk. Please note that oral contraceptives **cannot** protect you against infection by a sexually transmitted disease!

What acute conditions can occur?

For roughly 80% of women and 50% of men, no symptoms occur; the infection is therefore easily overlooked. Symptoms may occur after 1-3 weeks, but in the case of genital infections it may be as much as 6 weeks.

In women, there may be burning or itching during urination, or there may be discharge. It frequently also affects the fallopian tubes and ovaries. Inflammation of the fallopian tubes (adnexitis) can also cause fever and stomach aches. But even perihepatitis (inflammation of the liver) has been identified as a consequence of chlamydia. In the case of men, inflammation of the urethra may occur, with symptoms similar to those occurring in women (purulent discharge, itching or burning during urination).

What major complications can result?

The acute and chronic form of the infection can lead to irreversible adhesions in the fallopian tubes. It is one of the major causes of ectopic pregnancy and infertility. An inflammation of the male urethra and prostate may also cause infertility in men.

Conjunctivitis is a less common consequence. Reactive inflammations of the joints (arthritis) may occur following an infection.

How is a diagnosis made?

The method of choice for determining an infection from a pathogen is a molecular-biological procedure (nucleic acid amplification) that tests either the initial portion (5 ml) of the first void urine (no midstream urine) or a cervical smear.

Health insurance schemes in Germany offer annual screening tests for women up to age 25!

This screening test is performed using urine.

What can be done about it?

If detected in good time and treated adequately, genital chlamydia will heal without any secondary damage. It is treated with antibiotic which are generally well tolerated. As with all sexually transmitted diseases, sex partners should also be treated at the same time. Avoid unprotected intercourse (without a condom) while the treatment is ongoing.

... and one more thing:

The test for chlamydia cannot tell you how long you have been infected. Because there are frequently no symptoms, it is difficult to determine when and from whom you may have received the infection. That is why an infection does not necessarily mean that your partner has been cheating on you.