**What is chlamydia?**

Chlamydia is a common STD that can infect both men and women. It can cause serious, permanent damage to a woman’s reproductive system, making 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).

**Mode of Transmission**

You can get chlamydia by having anal, vaginal, or oral sex with someone who has chlamydia.

If you’ve had chlamydia and were treated in the past, you can still get infected again if you have unprotected sex with someone who has chlamydia.

If you are pregnant, you can give chlamydia to your baby during childbirth.

**Signs/Symptoms**

Most people who have chlamydia have no symptoms. If you do have symptoms,they may not appear until several weeks after you have sex with an infectedpartner. Even when chlamydia causes no symptoms, it can damage yourreproductive system.

Women with symptoms may notice:

•• An abnormal vaginal discharge;

•• A burning sensation when urinating.

Symptoms in men can include

•• A discharge from their penis;

•• A burning sensation when urinating;

•• Pain and swelling in one or both testicles (although this is less common).

Men and women can also get infected with chlamydia in their rectum. While these infections often cause no symptoms, they can cause

•• Rectal pain;

•• Discharge;

•• Bleeding.

You should be examined by your doctor if you notice any of these symptoms such as an unusual sore, a smelly discharge, burning when urinating, or bleeding between periods.

**Cure?**

Yes, chlamydia can be cured with the right treatment. It is important that you take all of the medication your doctor prescribes to cure your infection. When taken properly it will stop the infection and could decrease your chances of having complications later on. Medication for chlamydia should not be shared with anyone. Repeat infection with chlamydia is common.\

**Long Term Affects**

If you are a woman, untreated chlamydia can spread to your uterus and fallopian tubes (tubes that carry fertilized eggs from the ovaries to the uterus), causing pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID often has no symptoms, however some women may have abdominal and pelvic pain. Even if it doesn’t cause symptoms initially, PID can cause permanent damage to your reproductive system and lead to long-term pelvic pain, inability to get pregnant, and potentially deadly ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).

Men rarely have health problems linked to chlamydia. Infection sometimes spreads to the tube that carries sperm from the testicles, causing pain and fever. Rarely, chlamydia can prevent a man from being able to have children. Untreated chlamydia may also increase your chances of getting or giving HIV – the virus that causes AIDS.