

## Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) which can damage a woman's reproductive organs, if left untreated. Symptoms of chlamydia and gonorrhea are usually mild or absent. Serious complications that cause irreversible damage, including infertility, can occur "silently" before a woman ever recognizes a problem.

The surest way to avoid transmission of STDs is to abstain from sexual contact, or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected. Latex male condoms can reduce the risk of transmission of chlamydia and gonorrhea, when used consistently and correctly.

### Screening Guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends:

- Yearly chlamydia and gonorrhea testing of all sexually active women age 25 or younger
- Older women with risk factors for chlamydia and gonorrhea infections: those who have a new sex partner or multiple sex partners
- All pregnant women

An appropriate sexual risk assessment by a health care provider should always be conducted and may indicate more frequent screening for some women.

### For more information:

Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std)

CDC-INFO Contact Center  
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)  
Email: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)