

DOCTOR DISCUSSION GUIDE

Managing Chlamydia

Even though chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted infection, it can still be uncomfortable for some to receive a chlamydia diagnosis. Asking the right questions during your conversation will help you know what to expect and how to better navigate your condition. Familiarize yourself with these common terms before your appointment to help facilitate your discussion.

Vocabulary to Know

Your doctor might mention these common terms. Here's what they mean.

<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	The bacterium responsible for chlamydia infections.
Asymptomatic Chlamydia	Asymptomatic chlamydia is when someone is infected with the bacteria but doesn't show any signs or symptoms of the disease. This is very common. In fact, most people with chlamydia don't look or feel sick but can still pass on the bacteria to their sexual partners.
Urogenital Infection	Chlamydia bacteria can affect several different parts of the body, but most infections occur in or around the genitals. These are called urogenital infections.
Chlamydial Conjunctivitis	While many chlamydia infections occur in the genitals, they can also happen in the eye. Chlamydial conjunctivitis is when chlamydia bacteria get into the eye, causing redness and swelling.
Dysuria	Pain or a burning sensation when you pee. This is a common sign of chlamydia.
Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT)	The primary way doctors test for chlamydia. It's done by taking a small sample—like a vaginal swab (in women) or a urine sample (in men)—and testing it for the presence of chlamydia bacteria.
Chlamydial Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)	When an untreated chlamydia infection spreads to a woman's reproductive organs. Symptomatic PID happens in about 10–15 percent of untreated chlamydia cases and can lead to permanent damage or infertility.
Ectopic Pregnancy	An ectopic pregnancy is when a fertilized egg attaches itself outside of the womb, often in the fallopian tube. This is a potential complication of untreated chlamydia in women and can be life-threatening.

