

WHAT ARE COMPLICATIONS?

If untreated, Chlamydial infections can progress to serious reproductive and other health problems with both short-term and long-term consequences. Like the disease itself, the damage that Chlamydia causes is often "silent."

In women, untreated infection can spread into the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). This happens in up to 40 percent of women with untreated Chlamydia. PID can cause permanent damage to the fallopian tubes, uterus, and surrounding tissues. The damage can lead to chronic pelvic pain, infertility, and potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus).

Women infected with Chlamydia are up to five times more likely to become infected with HIV, if exposed.

**20.2% OF PERFORMERS
DIAGNOSED WITH AN STD HAD
ONE OR MORE REPEAT
INFECTIONS WITHIN A YEAR. – LOS
ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

HOW IS IT TREATED?

Chlamydia can be easily treated and cured with antibiotics. A single dose of azithromycin or a week of doxycycline (twice daily) are the most commonly used treatments. HIV-positive persons with Chlamydia should receive the same treatment as those who are HIV negative.

All sex partners should be evaluated, tested, and treated. Persons with Chlamydia should abstain from sexual intercourse until they and their sex partners have completed treatment, otherwise re-infection is possible.

Women whose sex partners have not been appropriately treated are at high risk for re-infection.

**HAVING MULTIPLE
INFECTIONS INCREASES A
WOMAN'S RISK OF
SERIOUS REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH COMPLICATIONS,
INCLUDING INFERTILITY –
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

CHLAMYDIA IN THE ADULT FILM INDUSTRY



**+ Pink Cross
FOUNDATION**

www.thepinkcross.org



Chlamydia (CT)

Chlamydia is a common infection in the adult film industry and is caused by the bacteria *Chlamydia trachomatis*. The bacteria target the cells of the mucous membranes including:

- the surfaces of the urethra, vagina, cervix and endometrium
- the fallopian tubes
- the anus and rectum
- the lining of the eyelid
- and less commonly, the throat.

Since 2004, LA County Public Health received reports of 2,396 cases of Chlamydia, 1,389 cases of gonorrhea, and 5 syphilis cases among AFI performers. 20.2% of performers diagnosed with STD had one or more repeat infections within one year period.

HOW CAN I GET IT?

- Chlamydia can be transmitted during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Chlamydia can also be passed from an infected mother to her baby during vaginal childbirth.

Any sexually active person can be infected with Chlamydia. The greater the number of sex partners, the greater the risk of infection.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

- Chlamydia is known as a "silent" disease because about three quarters of infected women and about half of infected men have no symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually appear within 1 to 3 weeks after exposure.

- In women, the bacteria initially infect the cervix and the urethra (urine canal). Women who have symptoms might have an abnormal vaginal discharge or a burning sensation when urinating. When the infection spreads

from the cervix to the fallopian tubes (tubes that carry fertilized eggs from the ovaries to the uterus), some women still have no signs or symptoms; others have lower abdominal pain, low back pain, nausea, fever, pain during intercourse, or bleeding between menstrual periods. Chlamydial infection of the cervix can spread to the rectum.

Men with signs or symptoms might have a discharge from their penis or a burning sensation when urinating. Men might also have burning and itching around the opening of the penis. Pain and swelling in the testicles are uncommon.

Men or women who have receptive anal intercourse may acquire Chlamydial infection in the rectum, which can cause rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding. Chlamydia can also be found in the throats of women and men having oral sex with an infected partner.

**AFI PERFORMERS
EXPERIENCE HIGHER RATES
OF INFECTION (20%) THAN
GENERAL PUBLIC (2.4%)**

– LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
CHLAMYDIA AND OTHER STDS
PLEASE VISIT CDC.GOV AND
LAPUBLICHEALTH.ORG**