Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is an infection of some reproductive organs, including the fallopian tubes, ovaries and uterus. PID is not a sexually transmitted infection (STI), but it can be a complication of untreated STIs such as chlamydia or gonorrhea.

Symptoms

Some people with PID have no symptoms. If symptoms occur, they can include:

- Abdominal pain

- Discharge from the vagina that is different than usual

- Pain or bleeding during or after sex

- Fever

Prevention

Condoms and dental dams can prevent the spread of STIs such as chlamydia and gonorrhea. Get tested regularly for STIs. Prompt treatment for chlamydia and gonorrhea can prevent PID. Having multiple partners increases your risk of getting STIs.

Testing

There is no test for PID. A health care provider will conduct a pelvic exam to diagnose PID.

Treatment

- PID can be treated with antibiotics.

- Start treatment as early as possible. It can stop damage to the reproductive organs, but it cannot undo any existing damage.

- The full treatment is needed to clear the infection. Take all the medication, even if you feel better.

- Get retested two to three days after completing treatment. PID that is not treated properly can become a serious infection requiring hospitalization.

Why Get Treatment

If left untreated, PID can cause severe pain and infertility (the inability to have children). It can also increase the risk of having a tubal (ectopic) pregnancy.

Sex Partners

PID can be caused by STIs such as chlamydia and gonorrhea. If you were diagnosed with an STI, your sex partners also need to be treated so they do not develop serious health issues, reinfect you or pass on the infection to others. You should tell all of your sex partners from the previous two months about your infection so they can be examined and treated.

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New York City Sexual Health Clinics provide confidential, low- to no-cost services including STI and HIV testing.

To find a clinic, visit **nyc.gov/health/clinics**.