

Urethritis

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Urethritis refers to inflammation (irritation) of the lining of the urethra (the tube that carries urine out of the body). Urethritis can be a sign of a sexually transmitted infection (STI). Infections of the urethra include chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Symptoms

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

- Burning or pain during urination
- Clear or white discharge from the penis
- Pain and swelling in the scrotum (balls)

Prevention

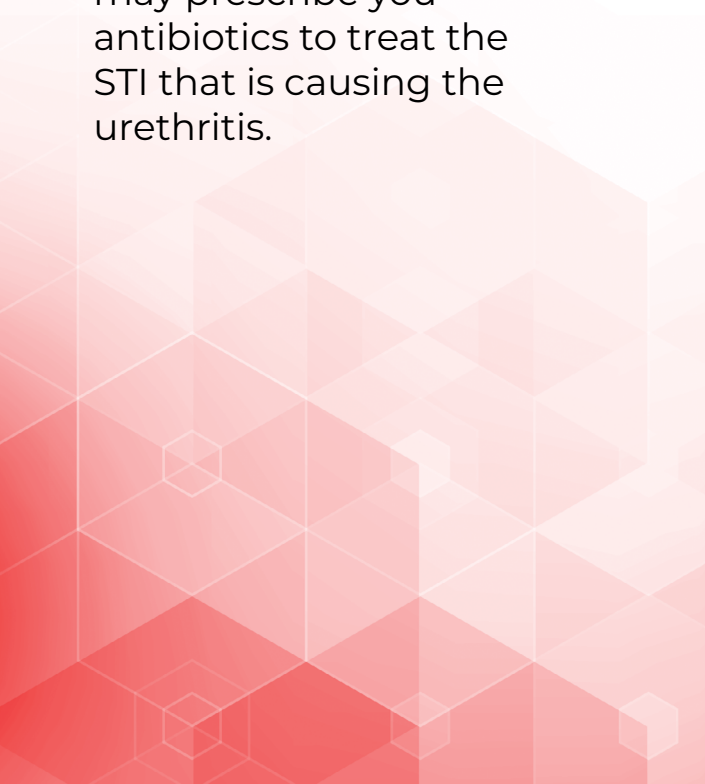
Condoms can prevent the spread of STIs known to cause urethritis, such as chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Testing

Your health care provider can diagnose urethritis using a urine sample or by swabbing fluid from the tip of the penis.

Treatment

Your health care provider may prescribe you antibiotics to treat the STI that is causing the urethritis.



Why Get Treatment

If left untreated, urethritis caused by an STI can cause severe pain, infertility (the inability to have children), and painful or swollen testicles. Having urethritis also makes it more likely to get or transmit HIV.

Sex Partners

If your urethritis is caused by 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.

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.



