

# Cervicitis

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Cervicitis is an inflammation (irritation) of the lining of the cervix. The cervix is the tip of the uterus that extends into the vagina.

Cervicitis can be a sign of infection. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as chlamydia and gonorrhea, can cause cervicitis.

## Symptoms

Most people with cervicitis have no symptoms. If symptoms occur, they can include:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Spotting (blood) between periods or after vaginal sex
- Pain during or after vaginal sex

## **Prevention**

- Condoms can prevent the spread of STIs known to cause cervicitis, such as chlamydia and gonorrhea.
- Having multiple partners increases your risk of getting and spreading these STIs.

## **Testing**

If your health care provider sees blood or pus on the tip of the cervix during a pelvic (internal) exam, they will use a swab to collect a sample of fluid from the cervix for testing.

## **Treatment**

Your health care provider may give you antibiotics to treat any STIs that are causing cervicitis.

# Why Get Treatment

If left untreated, cervicitis caused by an STI can:

- Cause severe pain or infertility (the inability to have children)
- Increase the risk of having a tubal (ectopic) pregnancy
- Make it more likely to get or transmit HIV

## Sex Partners

If your cervicitis 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.

If you test positive for an STI, you should tell all of your sex partners from the previous two months about your infection so they can be examined and treated.

# Cervicitis and Pregnancy

All pregnant people should be tested for STIs, including HIV, as early as possible in pregnancy. STIs in pregnancy can cause infections in the eyes and the lungs of a newborn baby.

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](https://nyc.gov/health/clinics).

