

Chlamydia

Partner treatment fact sheet

Why am I getting this prescription/medication?

Your sex partner has been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) called chlamydia. It can be spread through oral, vaginal, or anal sex. You may also have it, even if you are not experiencing any symptoms.

Chlamydia can be treated with doxycycline or azithromycin (antibiotics). A healthcare provider gave your partner either pills or a prescription to give to you so you can get treated. Being treated for an STI this way, without seeing a healthcare provider, is called expedited partner therapy (EPT).

Why is it important that I am treated for chlamydia?

If you have chlamydia and the infection is left untreated, you can experience serious health problems.

Untreated chlamydial infections can cause infertility (not being able to get pregnant), pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and increase the risk of ectopic (outside of the uterus) pregnancy in women. It can lead to epididymitis in men, causing swollen and tender testicles (balls), and infertility.

Without treatment you can pass chlamydia on to your sex partners.

How to take the medicine

If you were given azithromycin, take all the pills at once.

If you were given doxycycline, take 2 pills a day, 1 in the morning and 1 in the evening, for 7 days. Take the medication at the same time of the day for the best results. Do not miss a dose, even if you feel better.

If you throw up within an hour of taking your pills, you will need to see a healthcare provider to get more medicine. Eating something before you take the medication may help reduce vomiting.

Wait at least 7 days after the *last* partner takes their medicine, to have sex. Otherwise you could pass chlamydia back to your treated partner, or other sex partners.

Do not share or give your medicine to someone else.

If this is the first time you have taken this medication, make sure you review the possible side effects and are with a responsible adult who can help you in case you have an allergic reaction.

Do NOT take this medicine if:

- You are allergic to the medication you were given or have ever had a bad reaction, rash, or allergy to antibiotics in the same class of medicines.
- You are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, and were given doxycycline.
- You have any serious long-term health problems like kidney, heart, or liver disease.
- You currently have lower belly pain, pain during sex, pain or swelling in the testicles, vomiting, or fever.
- If any of the above are true, see a health care provider immediately so they can ensure that this is the best medicine for you.

Chlamydia

Partner treatment fact sheet

Allergic reactions

If you have signs of an allergic reaction, **call 911 or go to the emergency room right away.**

Signs of an allergic reaction include: trouble breathing, swelling of your mouth/lips, throat tightness, and/or itchy bumps on your skin.

If you are pregnant

If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, and were given doxycycline, you should **not** take the pills. **Doxycycline** is **not** safe to take during pregnancy. Instead, see a healthcare provider as soon as possible.

If you were given azithromycin, you may take the pills. You should still see a healthcare provider as soon as possible to make sure you and your baby get the care you need. Additional STI testing for pregnant women is recommended, especially if you've had unprotected sex with a casual partner(s) or your partner has other sex partners.