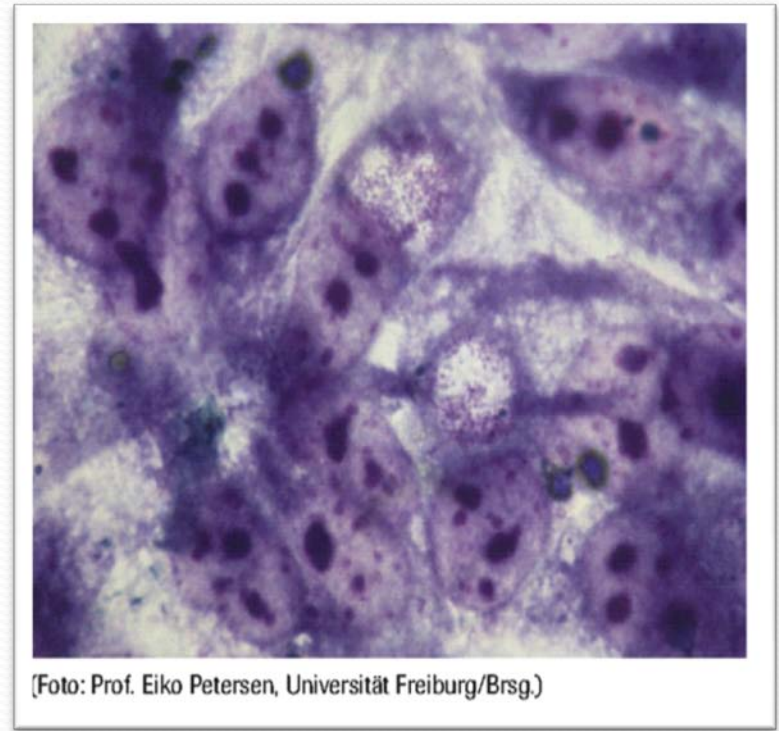


# Chlamydia

## What is Chlamydia?

- Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacterium, **Chlamydia trachomatis**.
- Chlamydia can infect reproductive organs, throat, rectum, and eyes.



(Foto: Prof. Eiko Petersen, Universität Freiburg/Brsg.)

## How is chlamydia transmitted?

- Sexual activity (vaginal, anal or oral sex)
- Infected mother to her baby during vaginal childbirth

## Who gets chlamydia infection?

Anyone who is sexually active can get chlamydia but those at greater risk include:

- Sexually active adolescents and young adults
  - especially, women age 25 or younger
- Those with new or multiple sex partners
- Presence of another STD
- Babies who are born to infected mothers



✓ The greater the number of sex partners, the greater the risk of infection

# What are the symptoms of chlamydia?

Chlamydia is known as a "silent" disease because the majority of infected people have no symptoms. If symptoms do occur they usually appear within 1 to 3 weeks after exposure.

## Women



- Increase in vaginal discharge (white or yellow) caused by an inflamed cervix
- Pain while passing urine
- Pain during sexual intercourse or bleeding after sex
- Lower abdominal pains
- Irregular menstrual bleeding
- Rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding (who have anal sex)

## Men



- Discharge from penis
- Pain while passing urine
- Burning and itching around the opening of the penis
- Rectal pain, discharge, or bleeding (who have anal sex)

## Infant

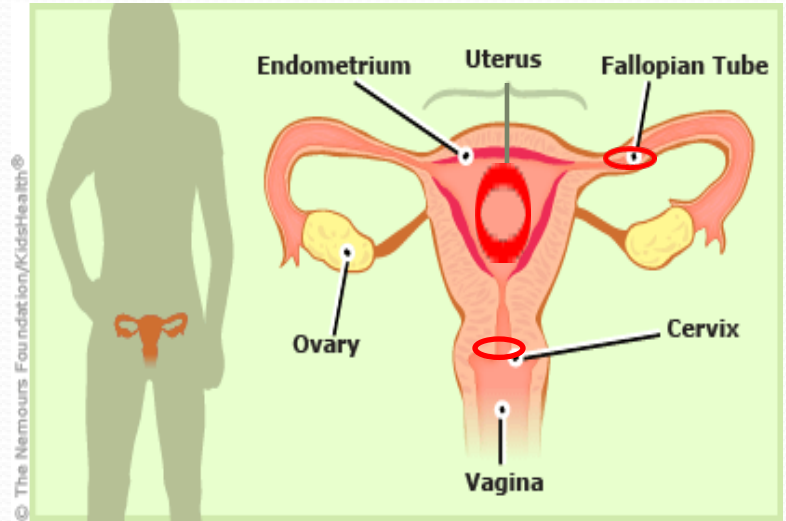
- Infant pneumonia
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) in newborns

\*Chlamydia can infect the mouth, throat, rectum, and eyes.

# What serious problems can result from untreated chlamydia?

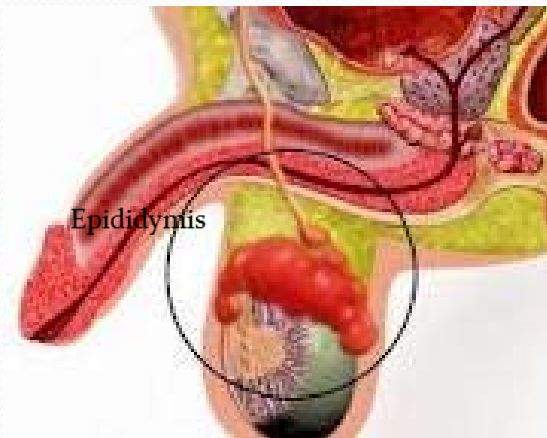
## Women

- Pain, fever on the cervix, fallopian tubes, uterus, and surrounding tissues
- Permanent damage to the fallopian tubes, uterus and surrounding tissues
- Reproductive trouble, fatal ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy outside the uterus)

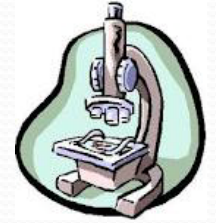


## Men

- Pain in the epididymis (the tube that carries sperm from the testis)
- Increased chance of becoming infected with HIV
- Arthritis that can be accompanied by skin lesions and inflammation of the eye and urethra



# How is chlamydia diagnosed?



- Urine test
- Specimen be collected from the penis or cervix

# What is the treatment for chlamydia?



- Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics.
- All sex partners should be evaluated, tested and treated.
- People with chlamydia should abstain from sexual intercourse until they have completed treatment.
- Women and men with chlamydia should be retested about three months after treatment an initial infection.



# How can chlamydia be prevented?



- Abstain from sex
- Maintain a monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and is known to be uninfected
- Use latex male condoms consistently and correctly
- Get tested for STI's at yearly exams and after changing sexual partners

