

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)

What is Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)?

PID is an infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes and other reproductive organs. PID occurs when bacteria move upward from a woman's vagina or cervix into the uterus and/or fallopian tubes. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are the most common bacteria that cause PID.

What are the symptoms of PID?

Symptoms can range from none to severe.

- Lower abdominal pain.
- Abnormal discharge from vagina.
- Burning or pain while peeing.
- Fever.
- Painful vaginal intercourse.
- Irregular menstruation.

How do I prevent PID?

Abstain from oral, anal and vaginal sex prevents the infections that can lead to PID. Use condoms/barriers consistently and correctly during oral, anal or vaginal sex. Maintain a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested for STDs and is not infected. If you have an STD, get treated and make sure your partners are treated.

How is PID treated and what if it is not treated?

See a health care provider for exam and tests to diagnose PID and to figure out the best treatment. Treatment is a type of antibiotic that is prescribed by a health care provider. Get a follow-up exam to make sure the treatment worked. Severe cases may require hospitalization. Permanent damage to reproductive organs can occur. Infertility and ectopic (tubal) pregnancy as well as chronic pelvic pain.

More information

- [PID: Questions and answers](#) (American Social Health Association)
- [PID fact sheet](#) (Centers for Disease Control)
- [PID information](#) (Planned Parenthood)

