



# PID Fact Sheet

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is an infection of the female reproductive organs caused by bacteria (often chlamydia or gonorrhea) that ascends from the cervix or vagina to the reproductive organs

**Symptoms:** Range from unrecognized to mild to severe

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Lower abdominal pain
- Fever
- Pain and/or bleeding during intercourse
- Bleeding between menstrual periods

**Transmitted through:**

- Vaginal, anal, or oral sex
- Leaving an STD untreated
- Douching
- Use an IUD for birth control (increased risk limited to first three weeks of having one)

**Prevention:**

- Abstinence
- Appropriate use of latex condoms
- Avoidance of sexual contact with partner until treatment is complete
- Early treatment of any STDs
- Annual screenings for all sexually active women
- Screening test during pregnancy

**Treatment:**

- Medication prescribed by healthcare professional and taken completely
- Treatment will not undo damage already done to your reproductive organs, so the longer you wait to get treated, the more likely it is you will have complications from PID

**Consequences without treatment:**

- Damage to the reproductive organs including the fallopian tubes and tissues in and near the uterus and ovaries
- Infertility
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Abscess formation
- Long-term pelvic pain

## Contact Information