A Message for Partners about Chlamydia

EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY (EPT) - JANUARY 28, 2022

Codman Square Health Center

Important information about your sexual health: Please read both sides of this sheet carefully.

If you have questions about the medicine for chlamydia, please contact Codman Square Health Center or your health care provider. For more information about chlamydia and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website at ***www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/std*** or Codman's X-Clinic website at ***codman.org/xclinic***

WHY AM I GETTING MEDICINE OR A PRESCRIPTION FOR MEDICINE?

Your sex partner has recently been treated for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) called **chlamydia.** You may have it too. That's why your sex partner is bringing you a prescription or medicine to treat chlamydia. You should take this medicine as soon as possible.

WHAT IS CHLAMYDIA AND WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

Chlamydia is a very common infection that both men and women can get from having vaginal, anal, or oral sex. For most people, there are no symptoms. But if you have the infection, even if there are no symptoms, you can still pass it on to anyone you have sex with.

WOMEN WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS MIGHT HAVE:

- Yellow or white discharge from the vagina
- Pain or bleeding during or after sex
- Bleeding between periods
- Burning or pain when you pee
- Lower belly pain, cramps and back pain
- Nausea
- Fever

MEN WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS MIGHT HAVE:

- Yellow or white discharge (drip) from the penis
- Burning or pain when you pee
- Burning or itching at the opening of the penis
- Pain or swelling in the testicles (balls)

Chlamydia that is not treated can lead to infertility (not being able to have children). In women, untreated chlamydia can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), which can be very painful. In men, untreated chlamydia can cause infection and pain in the testicles.

WHAT IS THE CURE FOR CHLAMYDIA?

Chlamydia is usually cured with the antibiotics **doxycycline** or **azithromycin.** These antibiotics do not treat other STDs like syphilis or gonorrhea.

TODAY YOU ARE BEING GIVEN DOXYCYCLINE OR AZITHROMYCIN, OR A PRESCRIPTION TO GET THE ANTIBIOTIC FROM THE DRUG STORE. BEFORE YOU TAKE THIS MEDICINE, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY.

1 If you have any of these problems, get medical care as soon as possible because you may need stronger medicine.

- Belly pain
- Throwing up
- Cramps
- Fever
- Nausea
- Pain in the testicles (balls)

2 Do not take this medicine before checking with your own health care provider or pharmacist if:

- You are allergic to any medicines
- You have serious health problems, such as kidney, heart, liver disease, or seizures

If you cannot take this medicine because of other health problems or allergies, get medical care as soon as possible to get the best chlamydia treatment for you.

3 How do I take this medicine?

- **Doxycycline:** Take 1 pill (100 mg) twice a day by mouth for 7 days.
- **Azithromycin:** Take all the medicine at once by mouth.
- If you throw up in the hour after taking the medicine, you will need to get more medicine from your clinic or health care provider because the medicine did not have time to work.
- Do not share this medicine with anyone else.

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4 What if I am pregnant, or think I may be pregnant?

Chlamydia can be passed from a mother to her baby during pregnancy and can cause health problems for the baby. If you are pregnant, you should only get azithromycin to treat chlamydia infection. See your health care provider as soon as you can. Tell them you were treated because your sex partner has chlamydia. **Do not take doxycycline if you are pregnant.**

5 What if I am taking birth control pills?

Birth control pills may not work as well if you are taking doxycycline. Use other forms of birth control while you are taking this medicine.

6 What should I do after taking this medicine?

- **Do not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex until you AND your sex partner(s) have finished taking 7 days of doxycycline. Do not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex for at least seven days after you AND your sex partner(s) have taken azithromycin.** It takes seven days for antibiotics to cure chlamydia. You can get chlamydia again if you have sex before waiting for the medicine to work on you and your partner(s).
- **Get checked for other STDs.** This medicine does not treat other STDs. Even if you take this medicine, it is important to get tested for other STDs because people can have more than one at a time. Get checked by your health care provider for gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV.

7 What are the common side effects of this medicine?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only minor side effects. Some possible side effects of doxycycline or azithromycin include diarrhea, upset stomach, belly pain, headache, and throwing up. Remember that if you throw up in the hour after taking your medicine, you need to get more medicine.

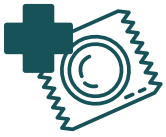
8 What if I have an allergic reaction after taking this medicine?

Very serious allergic reactions are rare, but can happen.

If you have any of these problems after taking this medicine, call 911 or go to the emergency room:

- Trouble breathing/chest tightness
- Swelling of the lips or tongue
- Closing of the throat
- Hives (bumps on the skin that itch)

If you had an allergic reaction: when you feel better, send an e-mail to ***ept@state.ma.us*** so that the Department of Public Health can find out how many people had problems with the medicine.



HOW CAN CHLAMYDIA BE PREVENTED?

If you have sex, using a condom correctly **EVERY TIME** you have any kind of sex can lower the chances of you getting an STD. Getting screened for STDs at least once a year is also a great way to stay healthy.

Codman Square Health Center

X CLINIC at Codman Square Health Center

CARE AT CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER

Codman Square Health Center and the X-Clinic offers community members counseling, testing, and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and infections (STI). We treat people of all ages, backgrounds, and gender identities. We are an LGBTQ+ friendly clinic, and have a multi-cultural and multi-lingual staff. We are proud to be a safe space for all! We can test and treat any patient regardless of citizenship status.

CODMAN'S OFFERS:

- STI consultation and testing
- HIV testing
- X-Press testing services
- PrEP/PEP
- Testing and counseling for teens
- Emergency contraception

If you have any questions about services or would like to make an appointment, call us at ***617-822-8350*** or fill out an X-Clinic appointment request at ***codman.org/xclinic.***