

Information for Patients

Chlamydia trachomatis/adult inclusion conjunctivitis

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia infection is a common sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. You may not know you have chlamydia because many people do not develop signs or symptoms of genital pain or discharge; however, it typically affects young adults, with eye symptoms appearing one week following sexual activity. Anyone who is sexually active can catch Chlamydia.

How has it affected my eye?

Chlamydia is spread through unprotected sex or contact with infected genital fluids (semen or vaginal fluid) that may get in your eye.

What is the treatment?

You will be given antibiotic drops/ointment and may be given oral antibiotics as well. It is important to finish any course of antibiotics as prescribed.

What are the complications?

If left untreated your eye symptoms will not resolve. Untreated, Chlamydia can also lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and pelvic pain in women. Whilst complications are less rare in men it can cause infertility.

Can Chlamydia affect a new born baby?

Yes. A baby who is exposed to Chlamydia trachomatis in the birth canal may develop an eye infection. This normally occurs within the first ten days after birth.

What happens now?

You may be given an appointment to attend the Eye Hospital for a follow up.

You will be advised of your nearest sexual health clinic. It is very important that you and any sexual partners are treated at your nearest sexual health clinic. It is very important that any sexual partners are treated even if they may not have any symptoms, as they could have the disease and re-infect you.

You should not have unprotected penetrative sex until you have been advised by the sexual health clinic that it is safe to do so.

Useful contact numbers

The Hathersage Centre

Phone: (0161) 701 1555 answer phone available

www.sexualhealthnetwork.co.uk/clinic/2-palatine-services-at-the-hathersage-centre