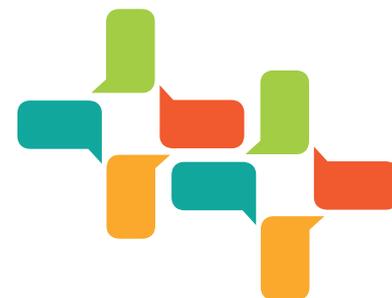


Fact Sheet

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)



What is PID?

PID is an infection of the uterus (womb), fallopian tubes, and/or ovaries in women.

What caused PID?

PID can be caused by sexually transmissible infections (STIs), most commonly chlamydia and gonorrhoea. It can also be caused by other infections, including overgrowth of normal vaginal bacteria. It occurs when these bacteria move upwards from the cervix (the neck of the womb) into the uterus and the fallopian tubes.

How do people get infected?

PID caused by an STI is spread by having unprotected sex with an infected person. PID can also occur after having a procedure performed, such as an IUD (intrauterine device) insertion or an abortion.

What are the symptoms?

PID can cause:

- lower abdominal and pelvic pain
- pain during sex
- abnormal vaginal discharge
- fevers
- bleeding after sex or between periods

PID may cause no symptoms at all.

What are the complications of PID?

If left untreated, PID can result in:

- persistent pelvic pain
- ectopic pregnancy (where pregnancy occurs outside the uterus)
- infertility (due to scarring of the fallopian tubes)

How can I test for PID?

PID is diagnosed after an internal examination by a doctor or nurse, plus swabs from the cervix and vagina.

How is PID treated?

PID is treated with a combination of at least two different antibiotics for at least 14 days. It is important not to have sex during the time you are being treated.

www.fpnsw.org.au | [talkline 1300 658 886](tel:1300658886) | [bookshop](#)

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What if I have an IUD (Intrauterine Device) in place?

Having an IUD is not thought to increase the chances of long-term complications from PID, although this cannot be guaranteed. You should discuss this situation with your doctor, but generally the IUD can be left in place if the infection responds to antibiotic treatment within 48-72 hours.

Do my sexual partners need treatment?

If an STI has been found to be the cause of your PID, then all sexual partners from the last six months need to be tested and treated for that STI (plus any other infections), even if they don't have any symptoms. You must not have sex with them again until they have had treatment, or you may become reinfected.

Even if an STI has not been found to be the cause of your PID, we would usually recommend that your partner(s) have a sexual health screen and consider treatment for chlamydia. Please talk to your doctor or nurse about this if you have any questions.

How can PID be prevented?

PID can be prevented by using condoms when you have sex, and having an STI check before any gynaecological procedure, such as IUD insertion or abortion. Regular STI checks will also help to identify any infections as they occur, and prompt treatment of these may also help to prevent PID.

For further information

- Contact the Family Planning NSW Talkline on 1300 658 886 or go to www.fpnsw.org.au/talkline
- NRS (for deaf) - 133 677
- SHIL (Sexual Health Information Line): 1800 451 624

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