

How Testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Can Protect Your Newborn Baby

Prenatal screening and treatment of pregnant women for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea is the best method for preventing Chlamydial and Gonococcal infection among neonates. The infection among neonates results from perinatal exposure to the mother's infected cervix. Pregnant women should get tested at the:

- First prenatal visit, and
- If they have signs and symptoms of Chlamydia or Gonorrhea, such as
 - An abnormal vaginal discharge.
 - Painful urination with or without vaginal discharge.
 - Mucoïd to white vaginal discharge, or lower abdominal or pelvic pain.
 - Presence of yellowish-green vaginal discharge.
 - Unilateral labial pain or enlarged Skene's or Bartholin's glands.
 - Rectal pain, bleeding, and yellowish-green discharge with a history of receptive anal sex.

Untreated Chlamydia or Gonorrhea During Pregnancy can cause:

- Conjunctivitis in neonate, which can lead to blindness.
- Pneumonia in the infant from inhaling infected secretions from the birth canal.

Your unborn baby is at risk if you:

- Don't get prenatal STD testing
- Have a new sex partner
- Have multiple sex partners
- Have unprotected sex
- Use illicit drugs
- Trade sex for money
- Are a man who has sex with men and your pregnant partner

Take Action to Protect Your Baby:

Men and women should take action to protect their unborn baby.

- Remind your prenatal care provider to test you at the first prenatal visit, between 28 and 32 weeks, and during labor and delivery.
- Health insurance or not, get testing and treatment free at any local health department – Visit <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/about/locations.html>
- Do the test at home - Request a free STD Testing Kit at <https://adph.mybinxhealth.com>
- For questions, call 334-206-5350
- For more facts, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/std/pregnancy/stdfact-pregnancy-detailed.htm>
- **Early Detection of chlamydia and gonorrhea in both the pregnant woman and her partner + Early Treatment of both the pregnant woman and her partner = A healthy Baby**

