

## Preface

Chlamydia, or more specifically a chlamydia infection, is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Most people who are infected have no symptoms. When symptoms do appear they may occur only several weeks after infection; the incubation period between exposure and being able to infect others is thought to be on the order of two to six weeks. Symptoms in women may include vaginal discharge or burning with urination. Symptoms in men may include discharge from the penis, burning with urination, or pain and swelling of one or both testicles. The infection can spread to the upper genital tract in women, causing pelvic inflammatory disease, which may result in future infertility or ectopic pregnancy.

Chlamydia infections can occur in other areas besides the genitals, including the anus, eyes, throat, and lymph nodes. Repeated chlamydia infections of the eyes that go without treatment can result in trachoma, a common cause of blindness in the developing world.

Chlamydia can be spread during vaginal, anal, oral, or manual sex and can be passed from an infected mother to her baby during childbirth. The eye infections may also be spread by personal contact, flies, and contaminated towels in areas with poor sanitation. Infection by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis* only occurs in humans. Diagnosis is

often by screening which is recommended yearly in sexually active women under the age of twenty-five, others at higher risk, and at the first prenatal visit. Testing can be done on the urine or a swab of the cervix, vagina, or urethra. Rectal or mouth swabs are required to diagnose infections in those areas.<sup>i</sup>

In the present book, thirteen typical literatures about chlamydia infection published on international authoritative journals were selected to introduce the worldwide newest progress, which contains reviews or original researches on chlamydia infection. We hope this book can demonstrate advances in chlamydia infection as well as give references to the researchers, students and other related people.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlamydia>