

Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Testing in Pregnancy

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are common sexually transmitted infections that can have negative effects on pregnancy and on newborns. They can cause pain, burning, itching, bleeding, and serious damage to the reproductive system. An active infection can be present without these symptoms however, and the majority of chlamydia infections have no symptoms at all. These diseases can also impact your pregnancy, increasing your risk of miscarriage, preterm birth, low birth weight, premature rupture of membranes, and other infections.

Gonorrhea and chlamydia also impact your baby as they come in contact with them when they pass the cervix and the vagina during birth.. Newborns can then develop these infections in many parts of the body, causing infection of the eyes, lungs, joints, blood, or other areas. The most common form of infection is an eye infection (conjunctivitis). This can lead to pain, visual impairment, and long term eye damage or blindness. Because of this, standard medical practice recommends administering an antibiotic gel to the eyes of all infants soon after birth to prevent the transmission of gonorrhea and chlamydia. Knowing your carrier status for gonorrhea and chlamydia is an important part of informed consent for this medication.

Testing for gonorrhea and chlamydia can be done in our office with a urine test or a vaginal swab. If your test comes back positive, medication and antibiotics can quickly treat either infection. It is recommended you be tested again 3-4 weeks after treatment, and again 3 months later to ensure you do not have either infection.

Standard medical care recommends all pregnant persons be tested for gonorrhea and chlamydia at the start of their prenatal care if they are under 25 years old, or if they are at an increased risk of infection. You are considered at an increased risk if you have new or multiple sex partners, have sex with more than one person concurrently, have had a sexually transmitted infection in the past, or have inconsistent use of safe sex practices and you or a partner is not monogamous. If you have any of these risk factors, it is also recommended that you be retested during the third trimester. If these risk factors were present in your past and you have not been tested since, it is also recommended you be tested. If at anytime you feel you are at risk of infection, or would like to be tested, testing is available to you here and at most other medical practices. Affordable, discreet testing is available to all pregnant persons and their partners at any time.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above information, including the risks of gonorrhea and chlamydia to myself, my pregnancy and to the newborn. I understand that I have access to confidential testing for these and other diseases at anytime should my decision or risk factors change.

NSM G/C Testing

- I consent to gonorrhea and chlamydia testing
- I decline gonorrhea and chlamydia testing

Electronically signed by: Sample Form

Date: 06/11/2021