

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

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Chlamydia, HPV, and herpes are the three most common STDs at the University of Arizona.

Long-term Effects of Chlamydia

Initially, chlamydia may go unnoticed. However, it can lead to health complications for both men and women. Chlamydia may cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) if it spreads to a woman's uterus and fallopian tubes. This can cause permanent damage and affect chances of having a healthy pregnancy. It may make it very difficult, and even impossible, for a woman to get pregnant. It can also cause a potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy, where the pregnancy occurs outside of the uterus. While men do not have as serious problems, the infection can lead to pain and inflammation in the testicles.

Chlamydia (sometimes referred to as 'the clam') is a very common STD, mostly in young adults. It can infect both men and women through unprotected vaginal, anal, and oral sex. One of the hardest parts of knowing if you should get tested for chlamydia is that often times, it shows no symptoms. In fact, over four million Americans currently have chlamydia right now and do not know it. If symptoms do appear, they often don't show up for a

couple of weeks. Some symptoms can include discharge, burning while urinating, pain and/or swelling in testicles, fever, and also rectal bleeding (if one was infected via anal sex).

Being infected with chlamydia may sound scary, but there is good news! When it is caught early, chlamydia can be effectively treated and cured with antibiotics. Your doctor may prescribe you a single dose or a week of antibiotics to help treat your symptoms and to get rid of the infection. At UA Campus Health, our pharmacy may provide you an additional dose for your partner, saving them a visit, and preventing chlamydia from "ping-ponging" between you.

Sexually active but have no symptoms? Consider getting tested anyway. Campus Health offers confidential testing and treatment for any UA student. And you can bursar it. Protect yourself (and others) by knowing your STD status.

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Have a question? Email it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu



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