 pelvis inflammatory disease

The Facts

Protect Yourself + Protect Your Partner

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is a serious complication of some sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

PID is a general name for infections of the womb, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.

PID is common. Women can get PID if they have an STD-like chlamydia (in men or women) or gonorrhea (in men or women) that is not treated.

PID can be treated, and being treated promptly may reduce your chance of having complications from PID.

How can I lower my risk for PID?

To prevent PID, avoid getting an STD.

If you do have an STD, see a doctor and get treated right away.

The safest way to avoid getting an STD is not to have sex or to have sex only with someone who is not infected and who has sex only with you.

Condoms can reduce your risk of getting some STDs if they are used the right way every single time you have sex.

Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not prevent any STD.

For more information

Talk with your doctor.

Call 1-800-CDC-INFO.


A message for everyone

Protect yourself and your partner.

Always see a doctor if your partner is being treated for an STD. Also see the doctor if you or your sex partner notice any spotting, bloating, pain, or an unusual discharge.

If you have one STD, you should be treated for all of them. To be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get treated too. Talk openly and honestly with your partner about STDs.
Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is a serious complication of some sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

PID is a general name for infections of the womb, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.

PID is common. Women can get PID if they have an STD (like chlamydia or gonorrhea) that is not treated.

PID can be treated, and being treated promptly may reduce your chance of having complications from PID.

**How can I lower my risk for PID?**

- To prevent PID, avoid getting an STD.
- If you do have an STD, see a doctor and get treated right away.
- The easiest way to avoid getting an STD is not to have sex, or to have sex only with someone who's not infected and who has sex only with you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting some STDs if you use them the right way.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not prevent any STD.

**For more information**

- Talk with your doctor.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO.
Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is a serious complication of some sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). PID is a general name for infections of the womb, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.

- PID is common. Women can get PID if they have an STD.
- PID can be treated. Not being treated properly may reduce your chance of getting complications such as PID.

**How can I lower my risk for PID?**

- To prevent PID, avoid getting an STD.
- If you do have an STD, see a doctor and get treated right away.
- The safest way to avoid getting an STD is not to have sex, or to have sex only with someone who is not infected and who has sex only with you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting some STDs. If they are used the right way every single time you have sex.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not prevent any STD.

**For more information**

- Talk with your doctor.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO.
Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is a serious complication of some sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

- PID is a general name for infections of the womb, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.
- PID is common. Women can get PID if they have an STD that is not treated.
- PID can be treated, and being treated promptly may reduce your chance of having complications from PID.

How can I lower my risk for PID?

- To prevent PID, avoid getting an STD.
- If you do have an STD, see a doctor and get treated right away.
- The easiest way to avoid getting an STD is to have sex only with someone who's not infected and who has sex only with you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting some STDs if they are used the right way every single time you have sex.

For more information

- Talk with your doctor.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO.
How can I find out if I have PID?

There’s no test for PID. Usually, a doctor will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The doctor can examine you and give you a test for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STDs often cause PID.

What are the symptoms of PID?

Yes, every woman and their doctors don’t realize that they have PID because the symptoms may be mild. Some women, however, have severe symptoms. You might notice:

- Pain in the lower abdomen.
- Fever.
- An unusual discharge from your vagina, with a bad odor.
- Pain when you have sexual intercourse.
- Bleeding between periods.

When should I be examined?

You should be examined by a doctor if:

- You have any symptoms (like pain or a smelly discharge from your vagina).
- You have bleeding between periods.
- Your partner has an STD (like burning or itching when passing urine or an unusual discharge).

What are the risks of PID?

- PID can cause scar tissue in the womb and other reproductive organs.
- The longer you delay treatment for PID, the more likely you are not to be able to get pregnant.
- PID can cause chronic pain in the pelvic area.
- PID can cause an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb. This can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.

How is PID treated?

If you have PID, what does that mean for my partner?

- Your partner may have an STD.
- Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated for STDs.
- Avoid having sex until you’ve both finished your treatment, so you don’t re-infect each other.

Can I get PID again after I’ve been treated?

Yes, you can get PID again if you are infected with an STD. If you get PID again, you have a higher chance of getting it again.
How can I find out if I have PID?

There's no test for PID. Usually, a doctor will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The doctor can examine you and give you a test for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STDs often cause PID.

What's the risk of PID?

• Sexually active women of childbearing age are most at risk for PID. The more sex partners a woman has, the higher her risk of getting PID.
• Women who are 25 or younger are more likely to get PID than those older than 25.
• Women who douche may be at higher risk for PID than women who don't douche.

How do women get PID?

• PID is a complication of some STDs. You can get an STD by having sex with an infected partner.
• If you don't treat the STD infection, it can spread. PID occurs when the infection gets into the tubes and other organs that enable a woman to have children.
• Women who douche may have a higher risk of getting PID than women who do not douche. This is because douching causes harmful changes in the healthy bacteria that live in the vagina.

Who's at risk for PID?

• Sexually active women of childbearing age are most at risk for PID. The more sex partners a woman has, the higher her risk of getting PID.
• Women who are 25 or younger are more likely to get PID than those older than 25.
• Women who douche may have a higher risk of getting PID than women who do not douche.

Can I get PID again after I've been treated?

Yes, you can. If you get treated for PID, you may still get it again. If you've had PID before, you have a higher chance of getting it again.

How is PID treated?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the tubes and other reproductive organs.
• The longer you delay treatment for PID, the more likely it is that you won't be able to get pregnant.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain, even after you stop having sex. Women who have PID can have an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb. This can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain in the public area.

When should I be examined?

You should be examined by a doctor if:
• You have any symptoms (like pain when you have sex or a smelly discharge from your vagina).
• You have bleeding between periods.
• Your partner has symptoms that might be an STD (like burning or itching when passing urine or an unusual discharge).

What happens if I don't get treated?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the tubes and other reproductive organs.
• The longer you delay treatment for PID, the more likely it is that you won't be able to get pregnant.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain, even after you stop having sex. Women who have PID can have an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb. This can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain in the public area.

Can I get PID after I've been treated?

Yes, you can. If you get treated for PID, you may still get it again. If you've had PID before, you have a higher chance of getting it again.

How do I know if I have PID?

There's no test for PID. Usually, a doctor will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The doctor can examine you and give you a test for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STDs often cause PID.

What are the symptoms of PID?

• Very often, women (and their doctors) don’t realize that they have PID because the symptoms may be mild. Some women, however, have severe symptoms. You might notice:
  • Pain in the lower abdomen.
  • Fever.
  • An unusual discharge from your vagina, with a bad odor.
  • Pain when you have sexual intercourse.
  • Bleeding between periods.

What to do if I find out I have PID?

• Follow all of the medicine to be sure you are cured.
• Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
• If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see your doctor.

What happens if I don't get treated?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the tubes and other reproductive organs.
• The longer you delay treatment for PID, the more likely it is that you won't be able to get pregnant.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain, even after you stop having sex. Women who have PID can have an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb. This can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain in the public area.

I have PID, what does that mean for my partner?

• Your partner may have an STD.
• Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated for STDs.
• Avoid having sex until you've both finished your treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.

PID can cause scar tissue in the tubes and other reproductive organs.
• The longer you delay treatment for PID, the more likely it is that you won't be able to get pregnant.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain, even after you stop having sex. Women who have PID can have an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb. This can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.
• PID can cause chronic pelvic pain in the public area.

I have PID, what does that mean for my partner?

• Your partner may have an STD.
• Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated for STDs.
• Avoid having sex until you've both finished your treatment, so you don't re-infect each other.
How can I find out if I have PID?

There’s no test for PID. Usually, a doctor will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The doctor can examine you and give you a test for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STDs often cause PID.

PID is a complication of some STDs. You can get an STD by having sex with an infected partner. Once you have the STD infection, it can spread. STD penises which do not enter the vagina or cervix do not spread the infection. Women who douche may have a higher risk of getting PID than women who do not douche. This is because douching causes harmful changes in the healthy bacteria that live in the vagina.

Who’s at risk for PID?

• Sexually active women of childbearing age are most at risk for PID. The more sex partners a woman has, the higher her risk of getting PID.
• Women who are 25 or younger are more likely to get PID than those older than 25.
• Women who douche may be at higher risk for PID than women who do not douche.

What’s at risk for PID?

• Sexually active women of childbearing age are most at risk for PID. The more sex partners a woman has, the higher her risk of getting PID.
• Women who douche (cleanse the vagina with water using a tube or syringe) may have a higher risk of getting PID than those who do not.

What are the symptoms of PID?

• Sometimes, women (and their doctors) don’t realize that they have PID because the symptoms may be mild. Some women, however, have severe symptoms. You might notice:
  • Pain in the lower abdomen.
  • Fever.
  • An unusual discharge from your vagina, with a bad odor.
  • Pain when you have sexual intercourse.
  • Bleeding between periods.

When should I be examined?

You should be examined by a doctor if:

• You have any symptoms (like pain when you have sex or a smelly discharge from your vagina).
• You have bleeding between periods.
• Your partner has chlamydia, gonorrhea, or another STD.
• Your partner has symptoms that might be an STD (like burning or itching when passing urine or an unusual discharge).

How do women get PID?

• Very often, women (and their doctors) don’t realize that they have PID because the symptoms may be mild. Some women, however, have severe symptoms. You might notice:
  • Pain in the lower abdomen.
  • Fever.
  • An unusual discharge from your vagina, with a bad odor.
  • Pain when you have sexual intercourse.
  • Bleeding between periods.

How is PID treated?

• If PID is caught early, it can be treated effectively with antibiotics. Complete all the medicine to be sure you are cured.
• Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
• If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see your doctor.

Can I get PID again after I’ve been treated?

Yes, you can get PID again if you are infected with an STD again. If you’ve had PID before, you have a higher chance of getting it again.

What happens if I don’t get treated?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the womb and other reproductive organs.
• PID can cause swelling in the womb and other reproductive organs.
  • It can cause inflammation in the womb and other reproductive organs.
• PID can cause chronic pain in the pelvic area.

I have PID, what does that mean for my partner?

• Your partner may have an STD. Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated for STDs.
• Avoid having sex until you’ve both finished your treatment, so you don’t re-infect each other.
How can I find out if I have PID?

There's no test for PID. Usually, a doctor will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The doctor can examine you and give you a test for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STDs often cause PID.

What's at risk for PID?

• Sexually active women of childbearing age are most at risk for PID. The more sex partners a woman has, the higher her risk of getting PID.
• Women who douche may be at higher risk for PID than women who don't douche.

How do women get PID?

Very often, women (and their doctors) don't realize that they have PID because the symptoms may be mild. Some women, however, have severe symptoms. You might notice:

• Pain in the lower abdomen.
• Fever.
• An unusual discharge from your vagina, with a bad odor.
• Pain when you have sexual intercourse.
• Bleeding between periods.

When should I be examined?

You should be examined by a doctor if:

• You have any symptoms (like pain when you have sex or a smelly discharge from your vagina).
• You have bleeding between periods.
• Your partner has chlamydia, gonorrhea, or another STD.
• Your partner has symptoms that might be an STD (like burning or itching when passing urine or an unusual discharge).

What are the symptoms of PID?

• If PID is caught early, it can be treated effectively with antibiotics.
• Finish all of the medicine to be sure you are cured.
• Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
• If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see your doctor.

Can I get PID again after I've been treated?

Yes, you can get PID again after you've been treated for it. If you've had PID before, you have a higher chance of getting it again.

How is PID treated?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the womb and other reproductive organs.
• The longer you delay treatment for PID, or the more times you get PID, the more likely it is that you won't be able to get pregnant.
• After having PID you should always use a condom if you have sex. It is important to use a condom if you have PID in the past or you are in a new relationship. In addition, if you have an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb, this can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.

How do I know if I have PID?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the womb and other reproductive organs.
• The longer you delay treatment for PID, or the more times you get PID, the more likely it is that you won't be able to get pregnant.
• After having PID you should always use a condom if you have sex. It is important to use a condom if you have PID in the past or you are in a new relationship. In addition, if you have an ectopic pregnancy, where the egg grows outside the womb, this can cause severe pain, bleeding inside your body, and even death.
How can I find out if I have PID?

There’s no test for PID. Usually, a doctor will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The doctor can examine you and give you tests for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STDs often cause PID.

• PID is a complication of some STDs. You can get an STD by having sex with an infected partner.
• If you don’t treat the STD infection, it can spread. STD tests tell you whether you have the disease and if you can spread it.
• Women who douche may have a higher risk of getting PID than women who do not douche. This is because douching causes harmful changes in the healthy bacteria that live in the vagina.

Who’s at risk for PID?

• Sexually active women of childbearing age are most at risk for PID. The more sex partners a woman has, the higher her risk of getting PID.
• Women who are 25 or younger are more likely to get PID than those older than 25.
• Women who douche may be at higher risk for PID than women who do not douche.

What’s at risk for me if I have PID?

• Sexually active women of childbearing age are at risk for PID. The more sex partners a woman has, the more risk she has of getting PID.
• Women who douche at any age are more at risk to get PID than those who don’t douche.
• Women who douche may be at higher risk for PID than women who do not douche.

When should I be examined?

You should be examined by a doctor if:
• You have any symptoms (like pain when you have sex or a smelly discharge from your vagina).
• You have bleeding between periods.
• Your partner has chlamydia, gonorrhea, or another STD.
• Your partner has symptoms that might be an STD (like burning or itching when passing urine or an unusual discharge).

What are the symptoms of PID?

• If PID is caught early, it can be treated effectively with antibiotics.
• Finish all of the medicine to be sure you are cured.
• Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
• If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see your doctor.

How is PID treated?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the womb and other reproductive organs.
• If the infection is untreated, PID can spread to the other organs in the body, where it can cause PID.
• Once PID is treated, you are cured.
• Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated for STDs.
• Avoid having sex until you’ve finished your treatment, so you don’t re-infect each other.

What happens if I don’t get treated?

• PID can cause scar tissue in the womb and other reproductive organs.
• If the infection is untreated, PID can spread to the other organs in the body, where it can cause PID.
• Once PID is treated, you are cured.
• Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested and treated for STDs.
• Avoid having sex until you’ve finished your treatment, so you don’t re-infect each other.

Can I get PID after I’ve been treated?

Yes, you can get PID again if you are re-infected with the same type of bacteria. Your risk of PID increases with each new infection, so you have a higher chance of getting it again.

How can I find out if I have PID?

There’s no test for PID. Usually, a doctor will decide if you have it from your symptoms. The doctor can examine you and give you tests for chlamydia or gonorrhea. These common STDs often cause PID.
A message for everyone

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PARTNER.

Always see a doctor if your partner is being treated for an STD. Also see the doctor if you or your sex partner notice any symptoms, such as an unusual discharge.

If you have one STD, you should be tested for others. Be sure to tell your recent sex partners, so they can get tested too. Talk openly and honestly with your partner about STDs.

For more information

• Talk with your doctor.
• Call 1-800-CDC-INFO.
• Visit www.cdc.gov/std/PID/STDFact-PID.htm.