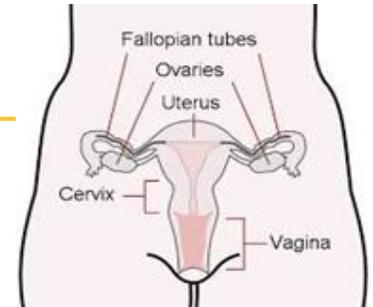


# Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is an infection of the female reproductive organs that can involve the uterus (womb), fallopian tubes, ovaries and surrounding tissues.



## *What are the symptoms of PID?*

Symptoms of PID can range from being very mild to severe and can include:

- abnormal or irregular vaginal discharge
- unusual vaginal bleeding
- pelvic or lower abdominal pain
- pain with sex
- increased period pain

Some women have very mild symptoms and don't realise they have PID. It is important to get tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) if you have a new sexual partner or have any of the above symptoms.

## *What causes PID?*

PID is caused by a range of different bacteria, which can include both STIs and other bacteria that live in the vagina and reproductive tract.

## *How did I get PID?*

PID can occur from vaginal bacteria and untreated STIs such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea and *Mycoplasma genitalium* that spread from the cervix into the uterus and fallopian tubes. It can also occur after insertion of an intrauterine device (IUD), surgical termination of pregnancy and other gynaecological procedures.

## *How is PID diagnosed?*

PID is diagnosed by taking a history from you, assessment of your symptoms, and vaginal and abdominal examination. If your health care provider suspects that you have PID you will be advised to have treatment, and your partner(s) should be treated as well.

## *What is the treatment for PID?*

PID is treated with antibiotics for 2 weeks. It is very important to complete all the antibiotics to minimise the risk of developing complications from PID.

Make sure you rest and take painkillers if necessary. If your symptoms get worse then you should see your health care provider or attend an Emergency Department.

## ***What can happen if PID is not treated?***

Untreated PID can cause scarring and damage to the reproductive organs causing:

- infertility
- long term pelvic or abdominal pain
- ectopic (tubal) pregnancy

Prompt treatment of PID can minimise the risk of complications occurring. Sex without a condom with a partner who has not had an STI check can put you at risk of getting PID again. Use condoms with new partners until you are sure that they have had an STI check-up and have regular STI check-ups yourself so that infections can be diagnosed and treated early.

## ***Do sexual partners need treatment?***

As PID can be caused by STIs it is important that all current partners be tested for STI and treated with antibiotics as well (even if their STI tests are negative).

## ***When can I have sex again?***

It is important that you don't have sex during your treatment. If you do, and the infection has not been completely treated, it could be passed back and forth between you and your partner(s). It is recommended that you do not have sex (even with a condom) until you and your partner(s) have finished your antibiotics.

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