

# Cervicitis

## What is Cervicitis?

Cervicitis is inflammation or irritation of the cervix (the opening to the uterus). This can be caused by infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and other sexually transmitted bacteria.

## How can I prevent Cervicitis?

While abstinence is the best way to prevent transmission of STIs, Cervicitis transmission can be prevented by limiting the number of sex partners, correctly using condoms during all vaginal, oral, and anal sex, and avoiding drugs and alcohol as they may lead to risky sex behaviors. Having partners tested and treated can lower the risk for reinfection and complications such as infertility.

## What are the signs and symptoms of Cervicitis?

Cervicitis often has no symptoms, but some signs and symptoms include vaginal discharge, spotting between periods or after vaginal sex, and pain during or after vaginal sex. The bacteria that cause Cervicitis can also cause a urethral (the opening to the bladder) infection that may cause pain while urinating. Cervicitis is diagnosed based on current symptoms and screening test.

## Why is it important to get treated?

Untreated Cervicitis can spread to the uterus or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a serious infection in the reproductive organs that can cause infertility.

Untreated Cervicitis can also cause pain in your pelvic area, preterm labor or a miscarriage, and could be passed from mother to child during childbirth.

Untreated Cervicitis can also increase the risk of HIV transmission.

## How is Cervicitis treated?

Cervicitis is often treated with antibiotics. All the partners you have had sexual contact with within the last 60 days should also be treated.

It is important to not have sex for 7 days after both you and your partners have been treated to avoid reinfection.

**For more information, contact your local county health department:**



**OKLAHOMA**  
State Department  
of Health



**SEXUAL HEALTH &  
HARM REDUCTION  
SERVICE**  
(405) 271-4636  
[shhr.health.ok.gov](http://shhr.health.ok.gov)