

Fast Facts

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)

- An infection in the female reproductive organs
- Caused by bacteria, most commonly gonorrhea or chlamydia, spreading from your vagina to your uterus, fallopian tubes, or ovaries
 - Typically, the bacteria enter your vagina via unprotected sexual intercourse
- Can also happen if the natural barrier created by the cervix is not intact, as is the case during menstruation, childbirth, miscarriage, abortion, or medical procedures that involve inserting instruments into the uterus
- Other risk factors include being a sexually active woman under the age of 25, having multiple sexual partners, being in a sexual relationship with a person who has multiple partners, having unprotected sex, douching regularly (this upsets the balance of bacteria in your vagina), and having a history of PID or other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
 - Can cause permanent damage if not treated promptly
- Complications include ectopic pregnancy, infertility, chronic pelvic pain and abscesses

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pain in your lower abdomen/pelvis that can range from mild to severe -Abnormal/heavy vaginal discharge that has an unpleasant odor -Irregular vaginal bleeding (especially during/after intercourse or between menstrual cycles) -Pain during intercourse -Fever (sometimes accompanied by chills) -Painful/frequent/difficult urination 	<p><i>Antibiotics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Oral -Intravenous (IV) <p>-Abstain from intercourse until medication is gone and symptoms have cleared</p> <p><i>Surgery:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Abscess removal -Not responding to IV antibiotics 	<p><i>Practice Safe Sex:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use condoms every time -Limit the number of partners you have -Known your partners sexual history <p>-Get tested if you might be a risk for a STI</p> <p>-Don't douche</p>

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