



Chlamydia

The importance of testing young people 16-29 years old

CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS IS THE MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTION (STI) IN AUSTRALIA.

Between 1999 and 2007 the number of Chlamydia notifications across Australia has more than tripled. The highest rates have consistently been among young people.

- In 2007, notifications of Chlamydia among 16-25 year olds made up over 60% of all chlamydia infections.
- As up to 85% of infections are asymptomatic, testing is the only way to detect such cases and reduce the risk of complications.

- Chlamydia infection can have serious consequences for women, including infertility and ectopic pregnancy.
- The Medicare Benefits Schedule permits testing for chlamydia among young sexually active women and men.
- Both 'The Red Book' and The Australian College of Sexual Health Physicians recommend that all sexually active women less than 25 years of age should be tested annually for Chlamydia. This can be conveniently performed at the same time of taking a Pap test.
- In 2005, the Australian Government committed \$12.5 million to increase awareness of Chlamydia and help reduce the alarming high rates of infection amongst 16-29 year olds.

Selectively testing young women aged 16-29 years old for Chlamydia is valuable for increasing the probability of detecting infection among asymptomatic women.

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

Test Name: Chlamydia - PCR

Sample Type: Swab Collection Kit (available upon request) or first pass urine.

Frequency of Test: Daily (Mon-Fri)

Gonorrhoea PCR can be performed on the same sample if requested.

Please contact your Client Services Manager for more information or visit healthscopepathology.com.au

REFERENCES

1. Alarming Chlamydia rates found in Australian teenagers. <http://www.medicalsearch.com.au/news/viewrecord.asp?id=28341> (accessed Sept 2007).
2. 'Do the characteristics of sexual health centre clients predict Chlamydia infection sufficiently strongly to allow selective screening?' Hocking J., Fairley C.K. Sexual Health 2005; 2: 185-192.
3. 'Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice (The Red Book)' 7th Edition 2009.
4. 'The Second National Sexually Transmissible Infection Strategies 2010-2013.'

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our Customer Service Centre.

1300 453 688

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