

Treatment Fact Sheet for Sex Partners of Persons with Chlamydia

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- Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex (oral, vaginal or anal) with a person who already has it. You have been exposed to chlamydia.
- Chlamydia is easily treated with the medicine azithromycin also known as Zithromax®.
- Your partner may have given you azithromycin (pills) or a prescription for azithromycin. This medicine was given to your partner by his/her health care provider to treat you. If your partner gave you a prescription, you can take it to a pharmacy to have it filled. The cost of this medicine may range from \$2-\$10.

Symptoms of Chlamydia:

Most people infected with chlamydia DO NOT have symptoms. If you do have symptoms they may include the following:

- Males experience pain or discomfort in the testicles, lower part of the belly or when urinating.
- Females experience abnormal vaginal discharge, painful urination, pain when having sex or vaginal bleeding between periods.
- Remember, you don't have to experience symptoms to have chlamydia. Many people can have and spread this infection without ever feeling anything is wrong.

DO NOT TAKE the medicine without first seeing a doctor if you:

- Are female and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting, or fever.
- Are male and have a fever or pain or swelling in the testicles.
- Have ever had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking azithromycin or other antibiotics. **Please check with your doctor before taking azithromycin if you have allergies to antibiotics.**
- Have a serious long-term illness, such as: kidney, heart, or liver disease.
- Are currently taking other prescription medicine, including medicine for diabetes. It is okay to take this medication with non-prescription pain or cold medicines, vitamins and birth control pills.

If any of these are true, or you have any questions, DO NOT take azithromycin and talk to your doctor as soon as possible in order to find the best treatment

How to Take this Medicine:

- You have four (4) pills of azithromycin. Each pill is 250 mg. Take all four (4) pills with water at the same time.
- You need to take all four (4) pills to treat the infection.
- You can take these pills with or without food.
- Do NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Roloids, or Maalox) for one (1) hour before or two (2) hours after taking the azithromycin pills.
- Do not share or give the azithromycin to anyone else.

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Allergic Reactions:

These reactions are rare but may include:

- Difficulty breathing and/or tightness in the chest
- Closing of the throat
- Swelling of your lips or tongue
- Hives (bumps on skin that itch)

If you experience any of these allergic reactions call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately!

Side Effects:

Although most people have no side effects some may experience:

- A slightly upset stomach
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Vaginal yeast infection

These side effects are usually not serious.

Important things to remember:

- The best way to take care of this infection is to see your own doctor or clinic provider. If you can't get to a doctor in the next several days, you should take the azithromycin.
- If you choose to not take the medicine to treat chlamydia you can get very sick. Females and males may not be able to have children. If you are currently pregnant, it is safe to take the azithromycin, but be sure to see your doctor for a full check-up. Notify the doctor of your pregnancy and your STD exposure and that you have taken this medication.
- If you choose to not take the medicine you should seek medical care as soon as possible.
- It is important to see a doctor as soon as you can to get tested for other STDs. It is common for people to have more than one STD at the same time. Azithromycin will not cure other infections.
- Do not have sex for the next seven days after you have taken the medicine. If you do have sex without a condom, or with a condom and the condom breaks, during those seven days you can still pass on the infection and possibly become re-infected.
- If you have other sex partners, tell them that you are getting treated for chlamydia, so they can get treated too. This can help prevent the infection from being passed back to you.
- People who are infected with chlamydia one time are very likely to get it again. It is a good idea to get tested for chlamydia and other STDs three (3) months from now to be sure you did not get another infection.
- Antibiotics may make birth control pills less effective in preventing pregnancy. A back-up method of pregnancy prevention such as condoms should be used for at least two weeks after taking the azithromycin.

If you have any questions about the medicine, chlamydia, other STDs or STD exam, or testing locations, please contact your medical provider or call the Arizona Department of Health Services STD Control Program: 602-364-4666 or visit the ADHS STD Program website: <http://azdhs.gov/phs/oids/std/>

Local provider contact information here