CHLAMYDIA - Pharmacist information

What is Chlamydia?
Chlamydia is the commonest sexually transmitted infection in the UK. It is estimated that as many as 1 in 10 individuals are infected with Chlamydia. In most cases, infected men and women have no symptoms whatsoever. Chlamydia is easily treated with a single 1 G dose of azithromycin. If it is not treated it can rarely give rise to problems for women such as blocked fallopian tubes, ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy in fallopian tube), infertility, or chronic pain in the lower abdomen. In men it can lead to infection of the testes.

How do we test for Chlamydia?
Testing can be performed on a urine sample for men or self-taken lower vaginal swab for women.

What is the treatment for Chlamydia?
1 G Azithromycin usually clears Chlamydia infection. Even if the individual has no symptoms, treatment is necessary to prevent any possible complications in later life. It is extremely important that any sexual partner(s) are also treated, to prevent the individual becoming re-infected. We advise that following treatment, the individual should not have sex (not even with a condom) until 7 days after they and their sexual partner(s) have finished treatment.

Does infection mean that a partner has been unfaithful?
No. Chlamydia can occur in people who are in long-standing relationships as the infection can lie undetected for a very long time.

Is a repeat test needed to be certain that treatment has worked?
No. If the individual has been treated there is not usually any need for them to have a repeat test. If however they would like to be retested, then this should be performed no sooner than one month after treatment, as sometimes the test can remain positive in the first few weeks, even when they are no longer infected.

Further information
For further information about chlamydia or testing contact:

http://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot.nhs.uk/STIHI/ChamydiaTreatment/Pages/default.aspx

Chalmers sexual health clinic (2a Chalmers Street, Edinburgh) and ask to speak to a Health Adviser, Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm (Tel 0131 536 2105)

Genitourinary medicine clinic, Howden Health Centre Fri 9 30-1330 (Tel 01506 423 800)

Chlamydia pharmacy

Version 03
05/02/2015