

Chlamydia

Treatment of Uncomplicated Anogenital & Pharyngeal Disease in Adult Patients

Disclaimer: The following recommendations may be divergent from Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Health Ontario and Toronto Public Health guidance. They are mainly based on the CDC STI guidelines from 2021 to account for up-to-date evidence. See [FAQ document](#) for more information.

PREFERRED TREATMENT

- ✦ Doxycycline 100 mg PO bid for 7 days
- ✦ If lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV): Doxycycline 100 mg PO bid for 21 days

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

- ✦ Azithromycin 1 g PO in a single dose

Doxycycline is the preferred treatment due to higher microbiological cure rates in both males and females for rectal chlamydia. Concurrent rectal *C. trachomatis* infection is common and often asymptomatic, even without direct rectal contact and can spread to urogenital sites.

TREATMENTS IN PREGNANCY

- ✦ Preferred: Azithromycin 1 g PO in a single dose
- ✦ Alternative: Amoxicillin 500 mg PO tid for 7 days

FOLLOW UP RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✦ A test of cure is recommended if the patient is pregnant, there is suspected treatment failure or the course of antibiotics was incomplete
- ✦ NAAT at least 4 weeks post-treatment if test of cure indicated
 - ✦ Testing earlier than 4 weeks may lead to false-positive results due to remaining genetic material but no active infection
- ✦ Re-screen all cases 3 months post-treatment

TESTING AND TREATMENT OF SEXUAL CONTACTS

- ✦ All partners who have had sexual contact with the index case **within 60 days** should be notified, tested and empirically treated. In addition to patient counselling, your local public health authority should be notified (Toronto Public Health STI Program at 416-338-2373). Expedited partner therapy may be considered for difficult to reach contacts.
- ✦ Testing at rectal and/or pharyngeal sites is recommended in MSM, people engaged in sex work, sexual contacts of a person with chlamydia, or upon clinical assessment of risk and symptoms; NAAT is the preferred specimen type.

REFERENCES

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