

Test Name

Anti-Chlamydia Trachomatis IgM, IgG, IgA

What this test is used for?

Chlamydia testing identifies the bacteria *Chlamydia trachomatis* as the cause of a person's infection. Chlamydia is one of the most common bacterial sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and can cause serious complications if not treated. Screening for, diagnosing, and treating chlamydia is very important in preventing long-term complications and spread of the infection to others. People who are infected have a higher risk of contracting other sexually transmitted diseases, including a 3 to 5 times greater risk of acquiring HIV if exposed to it.

Chlamydia trachomatis is a small gram-negative bacterium (0.2-1 µm), capable of infecting mucosal surfaces. Based on the outer membrane proteins, it is divided into several (18) serovars. Chlamydia infections are especially common among people 15 to 24 years of age.

Chlamydia is generally spread through sexual contact (oral, vaginal, or anal) with an infected partner. Risk factors include having multiple sex partners, coinfection or previous infection with another STD, and not using a condom correctly and consistently. Infections with *Chlamydia Trachomatis* often proceed asymptotically or may experience only mild symptoms.

In women, untreated chlamydia infections can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) - cervicitis, salpingitis, adnexitis and causes chronic pelvic pain, infertility, increased risk of tubal (ectopic) pregnancy, miscarriage etc. In men, primary chlamydial infections causes urethritis, epididymitis, and prostatitis. Chronic, untreated infections in many cases lead to infertility.

Pregnant women who are infected may experience heavy bleeding before delivery and premature rupture of the membranes and/or have babies with low birth weights. Infected mothers can pass the infection to their baby during childbirth. These babies are at risk of developing complications such as pneumonia or conjunctivitis.

Chronic infections of the inner female genital organs in many cases lead to infertility. Secondary infertility has also been shown in men.

In young men, rarely in women, **Reiter's syndrome** can be developed; it is typified by three main symptoms: joint inflammation (arthritis), urethral inflammation (urethritis), and inflammation of the conjunctiva (conjunctivitis).

How is the test performed?

A blood sample is taken from a vein.

How to prepare for the test?

No specific preparation is necessary for the test.

What does the test result mean?

Chlamydia Trachomatis antibody analysis is used as an ancillary method after confirmation by another tests.

In response to *Chlamydia Trachomatis*, human body produces three types of antibodies: IgM, IgG and IgA. After several days of infection (app. In 5 days), IgM is screened in the blood, which means acute infection. At 10 days of initial infection, IgM will be replaced with IgA and in 2-3 weeks will be produced IgG, that means chronic infection. It is possible that all the 3 types of antibodies showed in the blood at the same time.

Negative IgA, IgM and IgG means – No evidence of infection.

Positive IgM, IgA and IgG – Acute or chronic infection

Positive IgG – past infection, reconvalescent period

Positive IgA, IgM – Acute or reactivation

As with all sexually transmitted diseases, compliance with the principles of safe sexual intercourse, personal hygiene, consulting a physician when difficulties occur, and rigorous treatment of infection is most effective.