



Understanding Cervicitis

About 40% of cervicitis cases are related to chlamydia.

1. Introduction

Cervicitis is an irritation or swelling of the cervix due to infection or irritants. As the cervical tissue becomes inflamed, it swells and bleeds more easily. Cervicitis can be acute or chronic. Acute cervicitis begins suddenly, with more noticeable symptoms. Treatment for this type usually involves antibiotics. Chronic cervicitis lasts several months and is most often caused by allergens in feminine products.

2. Causes

Most cases of acute cervicitis are caused by sexually transmitted infections, including gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomoniasis, and genital herpes. Other possible causes of this condition are:

- + Chemical irritation or allergic reaction to latex, tampons, or diaphragms
- + Bacterial imbalance or bacterial vaginosis

3. Symptoms

Cervicitis symptoms may vary from person to person. The most common symptoms include:

- + Abnormal vaginal discharge
- + Itching
- + Light vaginal bleeding between menstrual periods or after sex
- + Painful sexual intercourse
- + Frequent, painful urination
- + Pelvic pain

4. Treatment

Treatment for cervicitis varies depending on severity, symptoms, age, and general health. The goal of treatment is to reduce symptoms and prevent the spread of infection. If the condition is caused by a bacterial or sexually transmitted infection, antibiotics will typically be prescribed for both the patient and their sexual partner if needed. If not treated, the infection can spread up into the uterus and fallopian tubes, resulting in pelvic inflammatory disease.

Did you know?

Some studies suggest that up to half of all women will have cervicitis at some point in their lives.

For more information on cervicitis, please visit [mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org).

References:

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