

Ophthalmology department

Chlamydial conjunctivitis

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet provides information about chlamydial conjunctivitis. We hope it will answer some of the questions that you may have at this time. This leaflet is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your medical team but aims to help you understand more about what is discussed. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact us using the details on the back page of this leaflet.

What is chlamydial conjunctivitis?

Chlamydia is a bacterium which infects the genitals and sometimes the eyes and throat. In men it causes inflammation of the urethra, and in women it affects the cervix.

Conjunctivitis is an infection of the conjunctiva – the mucous membrane covering the sclera, the white part of the eye. The infection is passed on through sexual intercourse with an infected person or hand to eye contact with an infected person.

What are the signs/symptoms?

The eye will become red and have sticky discharge, especially in the mornings. Usually only one eye is affected.

Women

You may also notice discharge or extra moisture in the vagina because the infection can inflame the cervix. There may be pain or stinging sensation when passing water. If left untreated, Chlamydia can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease. This can lead to infertility. If you are pregnant, or trying to get pregnant, Chlamydia can be passed on from a mother with an infection to a baby during its birth. It can cause the baby to have an eye or lung infection.

Men

You may also notice a burning or stinging sensation when passing water as the chlamydia affects the urethra.

Diagnosis

The nurse or doctor will take a swab from your conjunctiva by wiping the inside of your lower lid firmly.

The doctor will refer you to your local Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic where further tests are carried out. These include a urine sample test and possibly more swabs.

Treatment

You will be given antibiotic eye ointment to use frequently and / or antibiotic tablets. The Genito-urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic doctor will prescribe antibiotic tablets and ask you to take them for 7 to 14 days.

Who can I contact for more information?

The nearest GUM walk-in clinic to the Western Eye Hospital is:

Jefferiss Wing, St. Mary's Hospital, Praed Street

Call: 020 3312 1940/ 020 3312 6626

<https://www.imperial.nhs.uk/our-services/sexual-health-and-hiv>

Who can I contact for more information?

Emergency Department at Western Eye Hospital – 020 3312 3245

Outpatients at Western Eye Hospital – 020 3312 3236

Outpatients at Charing Cross Hospital – 020 3311 1109/ 1233/ 0137

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

~~This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team: imperial.communications@nhs.net~~

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

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