

---

## Department of Genitourinary Medicine

# Cervicitis

### What is cervicitis?

This means 'inflammation of the cervix (neck of the womb)'. This can vary in severity and may produce no symptoms or, alternatively, may cause an increased discharge.

### What causes cervicitis?

There are a number of infections which can cause inflammation of the cervix, all of which can be easily treated. Chlamydia is a common cause and this is routinely tested for in our department. Some of the bacteria that cause cervicitis can be very difficult to identify in the laboratory and so no cause may be found. This is called a 'non-specific inflammation'.

### How did I get cervicitis?

Some of the infections that cause cervicitis are passed on by unprotected sexual intercourse. Men will often carry these infections in their water passage (urethra) without having symptoms. Due to this possibility, we sometimes suggest that sexual partners are checked. This involves a urine test and a couple of samples taken by a small cotton wool swab.

Not all cases of cervicitis are acquired by sexual intercourse and the cause of these is currently unknown.

### Can cervicitis be treated?

Yes, easily, with antibiotics. The antibiotics prescribed will kill chlamydia and the other likely causes of cervicitis. Sometimes more than one course of antibiotics is required. If the inflammation is very persistent, we may advise an examination of the cervix with a magnifying instrument called a colposcope. This takes just a couple of minutes to perform and is painless (this just involves looking at the cervix in a bit more detail – the instrument does not go into the vagina).

### Will cervicitis cause any problems in the future?

No. Cervicitis is a minor condition that does not cause long term complications if treated.



We are currently working towards a smoke-free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS Stop Smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

## Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or

[patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)



## Document history

Authors	Department of Genitourinary Medicine
Department	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ <a href="http://www.cuh.org.uk">www.cuh.org.uk</a>
Contact number	01223 245151
Publish/Review date	December 2008 (no changes made)/June 2014
File name	Cervicitis.doc
Version number/Ref	3/PIN1198