

The Women's Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital
**Infection and termination
of pregnancy**
Information for patients



Infection after termination of pregnancy

After a termination of pregnancy (TOP), some women develop an infection in their womb (uterus) or fallopian tubes. This happens because bacteria called chlamydia, which are present in your cervix (neck of the womb), can get into your womb during the termination.

This can be prevented. We will offer you a test for infection and ALL women will be given antibiotics as the test is not reliable enough to pick up all cases.

The test for chlamydia

When you come to your first appointment we will take a swab from your cervix to look for bacteria called chlamydia. This is a common infection you get through having sex. Both men and women can have it. It can stay hidden for many years because there are usually no symptoms.

However, if it gets into the womb or tubes, it can cause pain and bleeding for women who are not treated. To reduce your chance of developing an infection after the termination, on the day of your termination we will start you on a course of antibiotics. These antibiotics are effective at treating most of the bacteria that can cause problems, including chlamydia. This treatment is free.

The result

We will usually tell you the result of your test when you come for your second appointment and have your termination.

If your test is positive for chlamydia we will give you some more detailed information and advise you to attend the Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) Department at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford or the Orchard Health Centre in Banbury. You can just turn up at one of their drop-in clinics – you do not need an appointment. They will check that you have had enough antibiotics, and make

sure that your partner(s) are also treated. If you do not attend the GUM clinic a member of staff from there may contact you to check that everything is alright.

If you change your mind

If you decide to continue with the pregnancy and you have chlamydia it is even more important to take the antibiotics because the infection could harm your pregnancy. The antibiotics are safe to take during pregnancy. However, we would adjust the type of antibiotics for women who want to continue with their pregnancy.

Afterwards

Whatever the result of your chlamydia test, if your bleeding lasts longer than two weeks, or you have bad period-type pains in the month following your termination, you should see a doctor. Contact your GP or phone GUM on Oxford (01865) 231231 and speak to one of the health advisers. You may need more treatment.

Contraception advice

Remember that it is important to use contraception as you can fall pregnant again 2 or 3 weeks after a termination. You can phone Family Planning on Oxford (01865) 456666 and speak to a nurse about this.

Further information is available from:

- NHS Direct:
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/articles/article.aspx?articleId=99
- NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries library:
www.cks.library.nhs.uk/patient_information_leaflet/Chlamydia

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns please contact
Gynaecology Outpatients on **01865 220447**.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in
another language, large print, Braille or
audio version, please call **01865 221473** or
email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

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