

# Mucopurulent Cervicitis

## What is mucopurulent cervicitis (MPC)?

- MPC is a common, sexually transmitted infection (STI) in females.
- *Mucopurulent* means a discharge that has mucous and pus in it.
- *Cervicitis* means inflammation of the cervix (opening to the uterus).
- While MPC is caused by many types of bacteria (e.g., Chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomoniasis), most often the bacteria cannot be identified.
- The organisms that cause MPC in females may also cause non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) in males.

## How do I get MPC?

- You get MPC by having unprotected oral, vaginal, or anal sex with an infected partner.

## How do I know if I have MPC?

- Women often have no symptoms.
- You may have:
  - abnormal yellow or white vaginal discharge
  - bleeding in between your periods or after sex
  - pain in your abdomen
  - pain during sex

## How do I get tested?

- Ask your healthcare provider for a medical examination and STI testing.

## How is it treated?

- MPC can be treated with antibiotics.
- Tell your sexual partner(s) so they can be tested and treated.
- Do not have sexual contact from the day you start treatment until 7 days after you and your partner(s) have both finished treatment.
- If you still have symptoms 3–4 weeks after taking antibiotics, see your healthcare provider.

## What if I don't get the infection treated?

- Infection can spread to the uterus (womb), fallopian tubes (tubes that carry eggs from the ovaries to the womb) and ovaries, causing pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID causes very bad pain in the pelvic area (lower abdomen). PID can lead to a tubal pregnancy and/or infertility (not able to get pregnant).

## How can I prevent spreading MPC?

- Not having sex (abstinence) may be your best choice.
- If you are being treated, do not have next until 7 days after the medication is finished and the symptoms are gone.
- Practice “safer sex”. Always use a condom during vaginal, anal, and oral sex.
- Use a dental dam during oral sex on women.
- Do not share sex toys.
- Limit the number of sexual partners you have.
- Ask your partner about his or her sexual history.
- Get tested for STIs before having any sexual activity with a new partner
- See a healthcare provider if you think you have been infected with an STI.
- Do not have sex with an infected person. You cannot tell just by looking at the person.
- Tell your partner if you have an infection.
- Get information, guidance, and support.

## Sexual Decision Making

- You have the right to choose to have sexual intercourse or not
- If you choose to have sex, be sure to protect yourself from pregnancy and STI.
- Talk to your partner about these choices before you have sex!

## For More Information Call:

### Sexual and Reproductive Health

Education/Health Promotion                      403-955-6515

### Clinical Services

Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre              5<sup>th</sup> floor, 1213–4<sup>th</sup> St. SW              403-955-6500

South Calgary Health Centre                      31 Sunpark Plaza SE                      403-943-9510

Sunridge Professional Building                      406, 2675–36 St NE                      403-944-7666

For 24-hour nurse advice and health information, call Health Link Alberta at 403-943-LINK (5465) in the Calgary area or 1-866-408-LINK (5465) toll-free.

Visit our website at [www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/programs/sexualhealth](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/programs/sexualhealth) for more sexual health information.

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