

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

Testing during pregnancy



What does chlamydia and gonorrhea testing data reveal about adherence to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations among pregnant women?



Background

CDC guideline recommendations for pregnant women include testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea during the first trimester and retesting after 4 to 8 weeks following an initial positive result. They are intended to protect the health of women and their newborns; however, the level of adherence to these recommendations is unknown.



Methods and Results

The study population consisted of women age 16 to 40 years who had an obstetrics panel ordered from January 2010 through July 2022. Chlamydia and gonorrhea results from testing performed at Quest Diagnostics were retrospectively analyzed to determine positivity rates and time between initial testing and retesting.

Suboptimal Adherence to CDC Recommendations for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Testing in Pregnancy¹

CDC recommends that...

- Patients^a be screened at the first prenatal visit (ie, first trimester).
- Infected patients be retested to prove cure (ie, negative result).^b
- High-risk (eg, previously infected) patients be retested during the third trimester.

1 in 8

patients were tested later than the first trimester.



1 in 3

infected patients did not have a subsequent negative result.



1 in 3

previously infected patients were not retested in the third trimester.



CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ^a <25 years old or at high risk. ^b Recommendation for chlamydia only.



Testing and retesting rates for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea infection among pregnant women were suboptimal. Better adherence is needed to help protect the health of women and their newborns.

1. Kaufman HW, Alagia DP, Van K, Van Der Pol B. Chlamydia and gonorrhea testing in pregnancy: time to improve adherence and update recommendations. *J Low Genit Tract Dis*. 2024 Jul 26. doi: 10.1097/LGT.0000000000000829

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