

Cervicitis



Case Definition

Cervicitis is an inflammation of the cervix that may manifest as:

- cervical ectopy with edema;
- mucopurulent cervical discharge;
- cervical bleeding on insertion of a swab.

Reporting Requirements

- Cervicitis is not reportable in Manitoba (see protocols for Gonorrhoea and Chlamydial Infection).

Clinical Presentation/Natural History

The common clinical presentations are vaginal/cervical discharge, abnormal vaginal bleeding, deep dyspareunia and lower abdominal pain. Cervicitis may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease if not promptly and adequately treated.

Etiology

The most frequent causes are infections with *Chlamydia trachomatis* or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

Other possible causes include *Herpes simplex* virus and cytomegalovirus infection.

Control

Management of Cases:

- Obtain endocervical swabs for *N. gonorrhoeae* and *C. trachomatis* during a vaginal speculum examination (see protocols on Gonorrhoea and Chlamydial Infection).
- Obtain cervical smear for polymorphonuclear lymphocytes or PMNLs (not valid during menstruation).
- Obtain a Papanicolaou smear to exclude cervical dysplasia, if not done in previous 12 months.
- Perform bimanual examination for signs of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).
- Presumptive initial treatment for both gonorrhoea and chlamydial infection is recommended before the results of diagnostic tests have returned.

Management of Contacts:

- Contact tracing is indicated only for contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases of gonorrhoea and chlamydial infection. Additional STD/HIV testing may be clinically indicated for cases or contacts. The management of cases of gonorrhoea and chlamydial infection and of their contacts, as well as other relevant information, is contained in the protocols for those diseases.