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HEALTH NEWS

Chlamydia can be treated, prevented

Due to the slow onset of symptoms, many people may not know they have chlamydia

By Kari Thorene
Higher Education Reporter

Chlamydia, which causes burning urination and potential sterility, is the most common sexually transmitted bacterial disease at the University, said Dr. William Disher of the Student Health Center.

It is also the most common sexually transmitted disease in the country, according to the Arnot Ogden Medical Center in New York.

"In women, it can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease which can result in infertility, increased ectopic (tubal) pregnancies and pelvic pain symptoms," Disher said. It can lead to a scrotum infection in men, although that's less likely, he said.

"If anyone is sexually active, and they aren't using a condom 100 percent of the time, and they are in relationships that aren't mutually monogamous, they are at risk," Disher said.

"Chlamydia infections are usually transmitted during sexual contact with the genital, rectal or mouth area of an infected person," according to the Mississippi State University health home page. It cannot be transmitted through casual contact, such as through hot tubs and toilet seats.

Infected persons do not necessarily have symptoms, Disher said. According to the Arnot Ogden Medical Center, up to 70 percent of infected women and 30 percent of infected men don't know they have the disease. If symptoms do occur they are present within the first four weeks of exposure.

"If the symptoms are present in males, it's burning urination or a discharge from the penis," Disher said. Other symptoms can include pain and swelling in the testicles and a fever.

Chlamydia symptoms

- **MEN:**
 - Burning sensation or pain during urination
 - Pain and swelling in the testicles
 - Fever
 - Cloudy discharge from the penis
- **WOMEN:**
 - Vaginal bleeding
 - Vaginal discharge
 - Burning when urinating
 - Lower abdominal pain
 - Itching and burning sensation in the genital area
 - Fever and nausea

Source: Mississippi State University health home page

"In women, it can vary from an abnormal vaginal discharge to bleeding to pelvic pain to fever—women also can have burning during urination. It all depends on how far along the infection is," Disher said.

People should be tested for chlamydia when they exhibit any of the symptoms, when they have unprotected intercourse with partners who have an unknown history or a known history of chlamydia or as part of an annual exam along with a pap smear, Disher said.

Chlamydia can be detected by simple tests. Men can undergo a urine test to find out if they have the disease, Disher said.

"During an annual pelvic exam, women can be tested by a swab of the cervix," he said. The health center tests for chlamydia as part of the annual exam routine.

"Chlamydia is treated by a number of different antibiotics," Disher said. "There are a couple of one-time doses, or there is the standard one-week treatment. Once treated, symptoms go away within a few weeks," he said.

The health center provides chlamydia testing, but appointments are necessary.

Study: New screening test helped men's awareness

Continued from Page 1

ther. We found that both made a difference at a statistically significant level."

When the test was publicized and free, the number of men tested per day doubled, Fleischli said.

"Awareness continued to have an effect after the full charge," he said.

The advertising campaign cost the health center substantially more than just eliminating the cost, Fleischli said. The cost per test was \$39.79 with the advertising campaign, but it cost only \$19.65 by making the test free.

The idea for the study came as a response to an offer by the state of free chlamydia tests for female

students as part of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, Fleischli said.

"As we started to explore that, there was a series of things we found would make it less advantageous for the center," he said. The increased paperwork and staff time required by the study would have actually increased the cost to the health center, he said.

"The reason the CDC was giving the grants was because they found out that screening would decrease the number of cases of chlamydia," Fleischli said.

Officials at the health center responded by designing their own study and applying for funding through the PCCHA.

Win Free
COFFEE or
Soda for the Term!

BELOW is a description of THREE NEW retail venues that will OPEN in the EMU IN AUGUST OF 1998. HELP us by SUGGESTING names for these locations and services. WINNERS will be announced at the beginning of the Winter Term, and will be recognized in the ODE!

The Bakery will be located in the Fishbowl area in the main level of the EMU (Where the Little Caesars Pizza and Fishbowl Deli "used to be"). It will be a full-service retail bakery featuring breakfast pastries, cookies, muffins, cakes, and artisan breads. A complete espresso bar will accompany the bakery.

SUGGESTED NAME FOR THE BAKERY: _____

The Coffeehouse will be in the newly constructed area in the lower level of the EMU, just off the newly remodeled courtyard. The Coffeehouse will have a full espresso menu, and a light food menu. The stage in the Coffeehouse will host an eclectic mix of musical, comedy, literary, and other performances, and will be open late-night.

SUGGESTED NAME FOR THE COFFEEHOUSE: _____

The Convenience Store will be located in the lower level of the EMU, just off the Breezeway (where Campus Copy is currently located). The Convenience Store will offer typical c-store fare, including wide variety of candy, snacks, bottled beverages, fountain soda, coffee, and sundries.

SUGGESTED NAME FOR THE CONVENIENCE STORE: _____

Entries must be submitted by the close of business on Friday, December 12, 1997. Please drop entries off at the Skylight Dining Restaurant in the EMU, Third Floor, East Wing. Entries may also be mailed to EMU Food Service, P.O. Box 3600, Eugene, OR 97403.

Entries will be evaluated by a committee of students and staff in order to select the winning name for each venue. The winning selections will be passed on for review by the President's Policy for Naming before being announced to the public.

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