

# INFECTION AND INFERTILITY

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## INFECTION: A KEY PLAYER IN INFERTILITY

Infection causes inflammation which, in turn, can affect both male and female reproductive tracts and potentially impact the ability to conceive. Below are some key facts that support the need of testing for infectious agents in both men and women.

### Female infertility

Infection of the fallopian tubes occurs in approximately 15% of women of reproductive age, of whom 2.5% will become infertile by the age of 35. *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* are two of the most important Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) which can lead to infertility in females. Other infections such as bacterial vaginosis (BV), trichomoniasis, candidiasis and infections with the genital *Mycoplasma* species can also contribute to infertility, have adverse pregnancy outcomes and increase the risk of acquiring HIV.

### Male infertility

Infections of the male genito-urinary tract is responsible for about 15% of male infertility cases. Infections can affect different sites of the male reproductive tract such as the testes, epididymis, and accessory sex glands. Infections can also affect the development, maturation, and motility of spermatozoa. *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* are two of the most important sexually transmitted causes of infertility in men. Non-sexually transmitted epididymo-orchitis can also lead to male infertility.



### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Men and women of all ages can be tested
- Testing is important in both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases
- Test early to treat promptly and prevent infertility
- Test results will be available within 72 hours
- Medical aid schemes may cover the cost of the tests (partly or in full)

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These infections can be present in both men and women without causing symptoms. Once structural damage has occurred in the reproductive tract, the damage might be irreversible, making early diagnosis and treatment crucial in preventing infertility. Ampath offers a wide range of infectious disease testing to assist doctors in offering targeted treatment to affected patients.

## AVAILABLE TEST OPTIONS

TEST NAME	SPECIMEN	TEST FOR
<b>Microscopy and culture</b>	Vaginal swab, urethral swab and semen	Bacterial vaginosis, <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> , other bacteria associated with genital infections, candidiasis, and <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> .
<b>Bacterial vaginosis PCR</b>	Dry vaginal swab	<i>Lactobacillus</i> species, BV-associated bacteria, candidiasis and <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>
<b>Sexually transmitted infections (STI) PCR</b>	Urine and genital swabs	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> , <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> , <i>Mycoplasma genitalis</i> , <i>Mycoplasma hominis</i> , <i>Ureaplasma urealyticum</i> , <i>Ureaplasma parvum</i> , and <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>
<b>Genital ulcer multiplex PCR</b>	Genital ulcer swabs, bubo aspirate and rectal swabs	<i>HSV-1</i> , <i>HSV-2</i> , <i>VZV</i> , <i>CMV</i> , <i>Treponema pallidum</i> , <i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i> , and <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> serovars L1-3.

