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BARTHOLYN'S CYST

What is Bartholyn's Abscess?

Bartholyn's abscess is an abscess on the Bartholyn's gland. Each woman has two Bartholyn's glands. They are located at the entrance of the vagina. One gland is located on each side of the vagina. When one or both of the Bartholyn's glands become infected, Bartholyn's abscess occurs. An abscess can result if the opening to the Bartholyn's glands becomes blocked.

An abscess is a localized formation of pus in a cavity. It is often caused by a bacterial infection.

The most common symptoms are:

- A hot, tender swollen lump in the labia majora
- Fever
- Painful and sensitive vagina
- Pain with sexual intercourse

The most common causes are:

- E. Coli bacteria in the vagina
- Gonococcus (organism that causes gonorrhea) in the vagina
- staphylococcus aureus bacteria in the vagina
- Streptococcus bacteria (organism that causes strep throat) in the vagina

Bartholyn's abscess can be diagnosed via a pelvic exam, a test for STDS and an examination of a lump in your vagina.

If Bartholyn's abscess is not treated properly, a cyst may form on the Bartholyn's gland. If a cyst forms, the cyst will need to be removed. In women over the age of 40, an enlarged Bartholyn's gland may signal an underlying tumor in the gland, although this is very rare.

Some of the most common treatments are:

- Draining of the abscess
- Antibiotics to combat the infection

Your doctor may recommend that the glands be removed if abscesses recur.

How can Bartholyn's abscess be prevented?

- Practice safe sex
- Have good personal hygiene