

Disease makes wife doubt husband's fidelity

Dear Abby: I've been happily married for eight years and was intimate with my husband for the year and a half that we were engaged. We have three children, all born by C-section.

On my last visit to my OB doctor, he diagnosed me as having chlamydia! I have been faithful to my husband for nine and a half years, and he also claims to be with me. But for this entire period of time, could it be true that neither one of us has shown any signs of this disease?

I would hate to live the rest of my life wondering if my husband is lying to me. But it seems strange that I get this disease now, if I had it all along. Is he lying to me?

Suspicious

Dear Abby

with ABIGAIL VAN BUREN.



Dear Suspicious: My gynecology consultant, Dr. Joseph Milstein, says, "Eighty percent of the cases of chlamydia are asymptomatic (without symptoms) and you could, indeed, have been carrying the disease for 10 years or more without knowing it."

If you went to your doctor with

symptoms — abdominal pain or fever (symptoms of pelvic inflammatory disease) — that would imply a recent infection. But, if you were without symptoms and your chlamydia was discovered from a routine culture, it is possible the organism has been there since you and your husband were both single.

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Dear Abby: We moved recently, and when meeting people for the first time, we are often asked about our children. We have three sons. The two older ones have jobs with some prestige, but our youngest son was sentenced to prison a short time ago. He's had a history of mental

problems from early childhood, which were always getting him in trouble with the police.

What should we say when we're asked, "How many children do you have, and what do they do?"

Uncertain

Dear Certain: Say, "We have three sons. The two older ones are doing quite well, but unfortunately, our youngest son has had a history of mental problems and he's trying to find himself."

There's no need to confide family secrets to strangers. If you're pressed for details, don't lie. Simply say it's a rather painful subject and you'd rather not talk about it. End of story. No need to elaborate.

Dear Abby: I was recently married and wrote my thank-you notes for wedding gifts very promptly. I was very proud of myself, considering that most brides don't get their thank you notes written until a couple of months after the wedding.

Well, I really was hurt when an aunt of mine returned my thank you note with a correction in spelling on it. Instead of received, I wrote "recieved".

What is your opinion of someone who would correct the spelling in a thank you note?

Just Wondering

Dear Just: Rude, insensitive and lacking in taste.

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