



Fact Sheet

Student Health Services, Texas A&M University

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Bacterial			
	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis
Signs/Symptoms	<u>Often no symptoms</u> . Men with symptoms can have discharge from penis, painful/frequent urination. Women have abnormal vaginal discharge, bleeding between periods, painful/frequent urination, itching/swelling of the vaginal area. Symptoms usually appear within 1-3 weeks after being infected.	<u>Often no symptoms</u> . Men with symptoms can have puss-like discharge from penis, burning sensation during urination. Women may experience bleeding with intercourse, painful/burning urination, and bloody or yellow vaginal discharge. Symptoms appear in 2-7 days after being infected.	Three Stages: Stage 1- a painless canchre (sore) that lasts 1-5 weeks. Stage 2-skin rash on hands, feet, and trunk of body. Flu-like symptoms may come and go for 2 years. Latency- <u>usually no symptoms</u> which can last several years. Stage 3 can cause neurological damage, blindness, and other health problems
Transmission	Spread through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex. Can be transmitted even if there is no sexual penetration. Can be transmitted during childbirth.	Spread through vaginal, anal, or oral sex, even if there is no sexual penetration. Can be transmitted during childbirth.	Spread by direct contact with a chancre through foreplay and/or vaginal, oral, or anal sex, even if there is no sexual penetration. Can be transmitted during childbirth, blood to blood contact and sharing needles.
Complications	Women can develop Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) which leads to ectopic pregnancies, infertility, joint pain, and cystitis (bladder inflammation). Men can experience pain or swelling in testicles, infertility, and joint pain.	Women can develop PID infertility, strong abdominal pain, arthritis. Men can experience epididymitis (swelling of the testicles), infertility, arthritis.	If left untreated, can cause heart failure, blindness, neurological damage, and death.
Occurrence	Caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis. The most common bacterial STI with an estimated 3 million new cases reported annually in the United States.	Caused by the bacterium Neisseria gonorrhoeae. Each year there are approximately 650,000 new cases in the United States	Caused by the bacterium Treponema Pallidum. There are still an estimated 70,000 new cases each year in the United States.
Treatment/Testing	<u>Curable</u> with certain antibiotics. Testing for males, urine test/urethral smear and females, urine test/vaginal smear.	Same as Chlamydia.	Curable with certain antibiotics. Testing-blood test.
Prevention	Sexual abstinence, use of latex condoms/dental dam correctly, every time for vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Mutual monogamy with uninfected partner.	Same as Chlamydia.	Same as Chlamydia and avoid sharing needles for anything.

Viral					
	Herpes Simplex I & II	Human Papillomavirus	Hepatitis B	HIV/AIDS	Molluscum
Signs/ Symptoms	Often no symptoms. Symptoms can occur 2-10 days after exposure and last 2-3 weeks. Painful sores in and around the genital or anal area and on buttocks or thighs. Fever, headache, vaginal discharge, and swollen glands can occur as well. The first outbreak is usually the worst.	Also known as condyloma. Often no symptoms. Those with symptoms can get visible genital warts, which vary in appearance, in or around the genital or anal area. Warts can appear within several weeks, months or years after exposure.	Often no symptoms. Symptoms include pale stools, yellowing of skin and whites of the eyes, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, and fatigue.	Often no symptoms for years. Fevers, night sweats, weight loss, chronic fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, chronic cough, bloody stools, and/or diarrhea and more.	Small, firm, flesh-colored bumps (often have an indented center) on thighs, buttocks, groin, and lower abdomen. Can cause itching or tenderness.
Transmission	Spread by direct contact with a herpes lesion through foreplay and/or vaginal, oral, or anal sex. Can be transmitted with or without the presence of sores. Can be transmitted during childbirth.	Spread through foreplay and/or during vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Rarely, women can pass HPV to their babies.	Spread through vaginal, oral, or anal sex, blood to blood contact, sharing needles, or during childbirth.	Spread through vaginal, oral or anal sex, sharing needles, blood to blood contact, childbirth, or breast feeding.	May be sexually transmitted by skin-to-skin contact. Can be spread through towels, clothing, and bedding.
Complications	In some people whose immune systems do not work properly, herpes episodes can last a long time and be unusually severe. Herpes infections usually do not cause major problems in healthy adults.	Some strains of HPV, which do not cause visible warts, cause cervical cancer. Can also cause anal cancer and rarely penile cancer.	Can cause chronic infection, cirrhosis of the liver, liver cancer, and death.	A weakened immune system leading to opportunistic infections and ultimately death.	In people with HIV, Molluscum contagiosum is often a progressive disease.
Occurrence	Recurrent, lifelong viral disease caused by HSV I&II. Currently an estimated 45 million people are infected with an additional 1 million new infections each year in the United States.	HPVs are viruses that cause genital warts with approximately 24-40 million people currently infected and 5.5 million new cases each year in the United States.	Serious viral infection of the liver with 1-1.25 million people in the United States currently infected.	An estimated 800,000-900,000 people have HIV in the United States with 40,000 new cases each year.	Molluscum contagiosum is a mild contagious skin condition. Very common in the United States.
Treatment/ Testing	Incurable. Treated with certain medications used to suppress symptoms. Testing culture of lesions, visual exam, and a blood test.	Incurable. Treated by freezing, surgery, prescription medications. Testing-visual exam, pap test.	Incurable. Acute HBV treatment based on symptoms. Chronic HBV treated with specific medication. Testing-blood test.	Incurable. Treated with antiviral drug cocktails. Tests-antibody blood test, Orasure (oral exam).	Incurable. Most symptoms are self-resolving. Lesions can be removed surgically and/or treated with chemical agents. Testing visual exam.
Prevention	Abstinence, avoid contact w/infected area (latex condoms may protect depending on infection location), mutual monogamy w/uninfected partner.	Same as herpes. Pap tests can detect changes in the cells of the cervix.	Immunization available. Same as Syphilis.	Same as Syphilis.	Avoid skin-to-skin contact with an infected area is most effective. Latex condoms protect penis or vagina but not other areas.

Parasitic			
	Trichomoniasis	Scabies	Public Lice
Signs/Symptoms	Men may have irritation inside the penis, mild discharge or slight burning after urination or ejaculation. Women may have yellow-green vaginal discharge with a strong odor, pain during intercourse and urination.	Presence of zigzag mite burrow(s), and reddish brown nodules or lesions and persistent itching.	Persistent itching in pubic area. Small, crab-like parasites can be seen that may be whitish-gray or rust colored.
Transmission	Spread through sexual activity. Women can acquire from infected men and women, whereas men usually contract only from infected women.	Spread through direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with an infected person. May also be spread by sharing clothing, bedding, and towels. Easily spread to sex partners.	Spread easily through body contact, genital contact, or shared clothing, bedding, towels, or toilet seats.
Complications	May cause premature rupture of membranes during pregnancy and preterm delivery.	Secondary bacterial infections may be caused by aggressive scratching. Sores on the body can occur caused by scratching.	Secondary bacterial infections may be caused by aggressive scratching.
Occurrence	Caused by a protozoan parasite called Trichomoniasis vaginalis. Most curable STI in young sexually active women. Estimated 5 million new cases occur each year in the United States.	Infestation of the skin with a microscopic mite called Sarcoptes scabiei. Very common in the United States.	Also known as crabs. Caused by parasites called pediculus pubis. An estimated 3 million cases of crabs occur each year in the United States.
Treatment/Testing	Curable with certain prescription medications. Testing for females, vaginal smear; males, urethral smear.	Curable with certain prescription creams. Testing visual exam.	Curable with certain prescription creams. Testing visual exam.
Prevention	Sexual abstinence, use of latex condoms/dental dam correctly, every time, for vaginal, anal or oral sex. Mutual monogamy with uninfected partner.	Same as Trichomoniasis. Do not share clothing, towels, or sheets. Condoms aren't considered effective.	Same as Trichomoniasis. Do not share clothing, towels, or sheets. Condoms aren't considered effective.