

Women: Some women may have irregular Pap tests, taken during annual medical exams. As it is possible for genital warts to appear on the cervix, it is important that women receive regular medical exams.

**Treatment:**

There is no cure for HPV infection. Genital warts can be removed by a medical doctor or can clear up on their own, or, the HPV can stay and be dangerous. It is important to get annual exams and to monitor your health.

**Prevention:**

HPV, like other STDs, can be prevented by not having sex, or by having sex only with someone who is not infected and only has sex with you. Condoms do not prevent the spread of HPV.

**SYPHILIS:**

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease caused by bacteria. Syphilis is passed from person to

person through direct contact with a syphilis sore.

**Signs/Symptoms:**

Syphilis has many signs and symptoms often resembling other diseases. Syphilis has three stages.

Stage 1: The first signs of syphilis usually appear between 10 and 90 days. Syphilis causes a sore. If left untreated, Syphilis will get worse.

Stage 2: The disease produces a rash on one or more parts of the body. The rash does not itch. If left untreated, the disease gets worse.

Late Stage: The external symptoms disappear, but an infected person begins to experience lack of sensation, a decline in mental ability, or loss of the ability to move a body part. If left untreated, syphilis can cause death.

**Treatment:**

In the early stages, Syphilis is easily cured. There is no over-the-counter or home remedy that will kill the bacteria that causes Syphilis, but a medical doctor can prescribe medicine that will cure Syphilis in the early stages. Treatment will cure the disease, but it will not repair the damage done by the disease.

**Prevention:**

Syphilis can be prevented. Like other STDs, Syphilis can be prevented by not having sex, or by have having sex only with someone who is not infected and only has sex with you. Condoms do not prevent the spread of Syphilis.

**For more information about STDs on the Internet, please visit:**

Body Health Resources Corporation  
[www.thebody.com](http://www.thebody.com)

American Social Health Organization  
[www.iwannaknow.org](http://www.iwannaknow.org) and [www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)

The Centers for Disease Control National Prevention Information Network  
[www.cdcnpin.org](http://www.cdcnpin.org)

**For more information by phone, please call:**

CDC National STD Hotline  
1-800-227-8922  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

CDC National AIDS Hotline  
1-800-342-AIDS (1-800-342-2437)  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

National Women's Health Information Center, a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
1-800-994-9662

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## What Everyone Should Know about Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)



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## STDs CAN BE PREVENTED!

### CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia is a curable, sexually-transmitted disease (STD). Chlamydia can be passed from one person to another through vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Chlamydia can also be passed from an infected mother to her baby during vaginal childbirth. Sexually active men and women should be screened for Chlamydia, particularly those between ages 20 and 30. Untreated, Chlamydia can severely damage the reproductive system of women and men, and can lead to infertility, the inability to conceive a child.

#### Signs/Symptoms:

Women: Most women do not have symptoms. If present, symptoms are mild.

Men: Many men don't have symptoms. If symptoms are present, they are usually mild. Some men may have a discharge from the penis.

#### Treatment:

Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics. All sexual partners of the infected person should be treated by a medical professional.

#### Prevention:

- Abstaining from sex (not having sex).
- Not having sex with an infected person.
- Correctly and consistently using a latex condom (male or female) and dental dams.

### GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a curable STD. Gonorrhea is passed through vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Gonorrhea

can also be passed from a mother with the disease to her baby during vaginal childbirth. Gonorrhea infections can also lead to severe health issues. Like Chlamydia, Gonorrhea can lead to infertility if left untreated.

#### Signs/Symptoms:

Women: Most women do not have symptoms. If symptoms are present, they may be mild. They may include:

- pain or burning while urinating
- an unusual vaginal discharge

Men: Many men do not have symptoms. If symptoms are present, they will appear two to five days after infection. Symptoms may include:

- A burning sensation while urinating
- A white, green or yellowish discharge from the penis.
- In some men, swollen and painful testicles.

#### Treatment:

Gonorrhea can be treated with antibiotics.

#### Prevention:

- Abstaining from sex (not having sex).
- Not having sex with an infected person.
- Correctly and consistently using a latex condom (male or female) and dental dams

### HERPES

Herpes is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by herpes simplex viruses on the mouth (oral herpes) or the genital area (genital herpes). Herpes can be passed through direct skin-to-skin contact. Herpes is very common; most people don't know they have it, or mistake the

symptoms for another disease. There is no cure for Herpes.

#### Signs/Symptoms:

- Typical Herpes is a small cluster of bumps that eventually crust over and scab like a cut.
- A person may show signs of Herpes weeks, months, or years after infection.
- Many people do not have symptoms, or have very mild symptoms, which are mistaken for other illnesses.

#### Treatment:

There is no cure for Herpes. There is no medical treatment that can prevent Herpes.

#### Prevention:

The best way to prevent Herpes is to abstain from sex. However, even those who have never had sex may have the Herpes simplex virus and can pass it to others.

### HIV/AIDS

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). HIV is a disease that is passed through contact with the blood, semen, vaginal fluid, or breast milk of an infected person. HIV is easily prevented. People without symptoms or signs of illness can pass HIV to others.

#### Signs/Symptoms:

- A person may have no sign of being infected with HIV for years.
- You cannot look at someone and tell whether he or she is infected with HIV.

- The only way to know for certain someone does not have HIV is through an HIV test.

#### Treatment:

There is no cure for HIV, but there is treatment. With proper medical care, medication and nutrition, a person with HIV can live a long and healthy life. Pregnant women with HIV should receive pre-natal care and treatment to prevent spreading HIV to their baby.

#### Prevention:

HIV can be prevented. Prevent HIV by:

- Abstaining from sex (not having sex).
- Not having sex with an infected person.
- Correctly and consistently using a latex condom (male or female) and dental dams.

### HPV (HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS) OR GENITAL WARTS

HPV is a group of viruses that can be passed from one person to another through sex. HPV can lead to cervical cancer, which can be a life-threatening illness. HPV may cause genital warts. Genital warts can be found on the cervix, vulva, vagina, anus, or penis.

#### Signs/Symptoms:

- Most people with HPV have no symptoms.
- In some cases, HPV causes genital warts. Genital warts are fleshy, soft, moist raised swellings, usually in the genital region. They may also appear on the scrotum, groin, or thigh.
- After infection, genital warts usually appear within weeks.