

# Sexually Transmitted Infections

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## Bacterial Infections

**Syphilis**-caused by bacteria, high contagious, but cannot live outside the body, affects the skin and any organ.

Symptoms	1 <sup>st</sup> Stage- reddish-brown sores on sex organs (chancre) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage- rash, and flu-like symptoms 3 <sup>rd</sup> Stage- gross malformations by eating away at skin and bones
Effects	Heart disease, brain damage, blindness, death
Transmission	Direct contact with a syphilis sore or rash during vaginal, oral or anal intercourse.
Treatment	Antibiotics (medicine)

**Gonorrhea**-caused by bacteria that commonly infects the genitals, anus and throat.

Symptoms	Abnormal discharge from penis or vagina, burning when urinating, stomach pains in women, may show no symptoms
Effects	Severe damage to reproductive organs, infertility in women, sterility in men, heart trouble, skin disease, arthritis
Transmission	Unprotected vaginal, oral or anal intercourse with a person who has gonorrhea.
Treatment	Antibiotics (medicine)

**Chlamydia**-caused by bacteria that commonly infects the genitals, anus and throat.

Symptoms	Abnormal discharge from penis or vagina, burning when urinating, bleeding between periods, may show no symptoms
Effects	Severe damage to reproductive organs, infertility in women, and sterility in men
Transmission	Unprotected vaginal, oral or anal intercourse with a person who has chlamydia.
Treatment	Antibiotics (medicine)

## Parasitic Infections

**Pubic Lice**-caused by a parasite.

Cause	“Crab louse”, which transfers from the genital hair of one partner to the other and lays eggs at the base of the hair, which hatch in 5-10 days.
Symptoms	Itching, lice in hair (pubic hair, armpit hair, eyebrows), pin sized blood spots on underwear
Effects	Itching and discomfort will get worse
Transmission	Sexual skin to skin contact, sharing personal items such as clothes, towels, soap, or bedding. Pubic lice can live off the body 24-48 hours.
Treatment	Special lotions and shampoos, all clothing and bedding must be sterilized

## Viral Infections

### **Genital Herpes**-caused by a virus (HSV-Herpes Simplex Virus).

Symptoms	Small, painful blisters on sex organs or mouth, flu like feelings, may have no symptoms
Effects	Mainly emotional due to the ongoing nature of the disease and the unpredictable occurrence of the outbreaks.
Transmission	Direct contact with sores or blisters of an infected person.
Treatment	No known cure, symptoms can be treated with medicine

### **Genital Warts**-caused by a virus (HPV-Human Papilloma Virus).

Symptoms	Small, bumpy warts on the sex organs or anus
Effects	Can grow larger, spread to more areas and become more serious
Transmission	Direct skin to skin contact or unprotected vaginal, oral or anal intercourse.
Treatment	Can be treated with chemicals, removed by burning, freezing, lasers or minor surgery

### **HIV/AIDS**-caused by a virus that invades the immune system.

Symptoms	<b>HIV</b> - infected people often have no symptoms and look and feel fine. Some people with HIV will have symptoms like fatigue, loss of appetite, night sweats, etc. <b>AIDS</b> - occurs after the virus has damaged the immune system-People may have symptoms like extreme weight loss, unusual skin infections, pneumonia and or cancers.
Effects	HIV can lead to a lower immune system, reducing the body's ability to fight infections. Over time, symptoms develop; the end stage of the infection is called AIDS. This is when opportunistic infections and cancers develop.
Transmission	Contact with blood, semen, vaginal fluid or breast milk; unprotected vaginal, oral or anal intercourse; pregnancy-from an infected mother to an unborn baby; use or reuse of needles or syringes with traces of blood or an infected person (tattooing, sharing needles, piercings)
Treatment	No known cure, medication to prolong the onset of AIDS
Additional Information	There is a “window period” in testing for HIV that refers to the period of time when a person may be positive but not test positive. In order to test positive for HIV, the individual must have sufficient levels of HIV antibodies in the blood. It can take anywhere from 6 months to a year to have enough HIV antibodies in the blood. You will continue to test negative, but actually have the virus in your body, until you have produced enough antibodies to be detected.