

# THE LOW DOWN ON THE MOST COMMON STDs

	<b>CHLAMYDIA</b>	<b>TRICHOMONIASIS (TRICH)</b>	<b>GONORRHEA</b>	<b>HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV or Genital Warts)</b>
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	A bacterial infection of the genital area.	A parasitic infection of the genital area.	A bacterial infection of the genital area.	A viral infection with more than 100 different types, over 40 of which can infect the genitals.
<b>HOW MANY GET IT?</b>	About two million new cases each year. The highest rates are among adolescent women.	As many as five million new cases each year.	About 650,000 new cases a year. The highest rates are among women aged 15 to 19 and men aged 20 to 24.	An estimated 6.2 million new cases each year - at least 20 million people already have it.
<b>SYMPTOMS</b>	There are no symptoms in most women and many men who have it. Women may experience abnormal vaginal discharge and bleeding (not your period), and pain during urination. Men develop discharge or pain during urination within one to three weeks of having sex with an infected partner.	Often there are no symptoms. Some women may notice a frothy, smelly, yellowish-green vaginal discharge, and/or genital area discomfort, usually within 4 days to one month after exposure to the parasite. Men may notice a discharge from the penis.	Most people infected have no symptoms. For those who do, it can cause a burning sensation while urinating, green or yellowish vaginal or penile discharge, and for women, abnormal vaginal bleeding and/or pelvic pain. Symptoms can appear within 2 to 10 days after infection.	Most people infected have no symptoms. But some HPV types can cause genital warts - small bumps in and around the genitals (vagina, vulva, penis, testicles, and anus, etc.) If they do occur, warts may appear within weeks or months of infection.
<b>HOW IT'S SPREAD</b>	Through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse.	Through unprotected vaginal intercourse.	Most commonly through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex.	Most commonly through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex, but can also be passed on during skin-to-skin contact.
<b>TREATMENT</b>	Oral antibiotics cure the infection. Both partners must be treated at the same time to prevent passing the infection back and forth, and both partners need to abstain from unprotected intercourse until the infection is gone.	Antibiotics can cure the infection. Both partners must be treated at the same time to prevent passing the infection back and forth, and both partners need to abstain from unprotected intercourse until the infection is gone.	Oral antibiotics can cure the infection. Both partners must be treated at the same time to prevent passing the infection back and forth, and both partners need to abstain from unprotected intercourse until the infection is gone.	There is no cure for the virus itself (HPV), but warts can be treated through topical medicines or methods to remove or freeze them. Even with such treatments, the virus may still be present and can cause recurrences. It is not known how long a person remains contagious after warts are treated.
<b>POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES</b>	Increased risk for infection of other STDs, including HIV. In women, chlamydia can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) which can lead to infertility and tubal (ectopic) pregnancy. Babies born to infected women can develop eye or lung infections, and infected men uncommonly develop pain and swelling in the testicle.	Increased risk for infection of other STDs, including HIV. In women, trich can cause complications during pregnancy. Also, it's common for this infection to happen again and again.	Increased risk for infection of other STDs, including HIV. In women, the infection can spread into the uterus and fallopian tubes, causing pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) which can lead to infertility and tubal (ectopic) pregnancy.	Genital warts will not turn into cancer over time, even if they are not treated. In women, persistent infection with certain HPV types can cause cervical cancer over time; however, the majority of women with HPV infections will not develop cervical cancer, especially if they get routine Pap tests and follow up as recommended. The HPV types that can cause genital warts are different from the types that can cause cervical cancer.

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	GENITAL HERPES	SYPHILIS	HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV)	HIV
<b>WHAT IS IT?</b>	A viral infection of the genital area can also infect the area around the mouth.	An infection caused by bacteria that can spread throughout the body.	A viral infection affecting the liver - can be acute or chronic	The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the virus that causes AIDS.
<b>HOW MANY GET IT?</b>	About one million new infections each year. An estimated 45 million people are infected in the United States.	About 37,000 new cases each year.	About 46,000 new cases a year - some acquired through sexual transmission. Up to 1.2 million people are already infected with Hepatitis B.	About 48,000 people in the United States were infected through sexual transmission of HIV in 2006. An estimated 1.1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV.
<b>SYMPTOMS</b>	Most people have no symptoms. Herpes 1 usually causes cold sores and fever blisters on the mouth ; Herpes 2 is usually the cause of genital sores or blisters. Both viruses can cause sores in either areas. An outbreak can start as red bumps and then turn into painful blisters or sores. During the first outbreak, it can also lead to flu-like symptoms: fever, headaches, and swollen glands. Symptoms usually appear within two weeks of infection. The viruses stay in the body forever and may cause recurrent outbreaks.	In the first phase, a single sore (chancre) may appear on the genitals or mouth, as early as two weeks but as long as three months after exposure. This chancre can be present for one to five weeks. Often, however, there are no noticeable symptoms. In the second stage, up to six months after the first sore has disappeared, a variety of symptoms can appear, including a rash (often on the palms of the hands or soles of the feet, but also on other body parts).	Many people don't have any symptoms, especially adults with chronic infection. Others may experience tiredness, aches, nausea & vomiting, loss of appetite, darkening of urine, or tenderness in the stomach, usually within one to 6 months of exposure. Yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes (called jaundice) can occur later.	The only way to know for sure if someone is infected with HIV is to be tested. Many people infected with HIV don't have any symptoms for 10 years or more. However, there are general stages of HIV infection. For more info on the general stages of HIV infection, check out <a href="http://www.gytnow.org">www.gytnow.org</a> .
<b>HOW IT'S SPREAD</b>	Most commonly through unprotected vaginal, oral or anal sex, but can also be passed on during skin-to-skin contact. Condom use can reduce this risk.	Through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex -and also through kissing if there is a lesion on the mouth.	Through unprotected vaginal, oral, & anal sex, also through childbirth, as well as sharing contaminated needles or any behavior in which a person's mucus membranes are exposed to an infected person's blood, semen, vaginal secretions, or saliva. The chance of getting it through kissing is low.	Through unprotected vaginal, oral, and anal sex with someone who has HIV; through sharing contaminated needles or drug works; and during pregnancy or breast feeding with an HIV-positive mother. Kissing is considered a very low-risk activity for the transmission of HIV.
<b>TREATMENT</b>	There is no cure, but medications can help reduce the pain and itching as well as the frequency of recurrent outbreaks. Daily medication can also reduce the likelihood of spreading the infections to sex partners.	Antibiotic treatment can cure the disease if it's caught early, but medication can't undo damage already done. Both partners must be treated at the same time.	Illness can last up to 6 months and symptoms can be mild to severe. Most often treated with rest, adequate nutrition and fluids. Follow your doctor's advice about how to care for your liver.	There is no cure for HIV or AIDS. Antiretroviral treatment can slow the progression of HIV infection & delay the onset of AIDS. Early diagnosis & treatment can improve a person's chances of living a longer, healthier life.
<b>POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES</b>	Increased risk for infection of other STDs, including HIV. Recurrent sores -the virus lives in the body forever and can keep coming back. Passing herpes from mother to newborn is rare; however, an infant who gets herpes can become very ill, so some precautions are advisable.	Increased risk for infection of other STDs, including HIV. Untreated, the symptoms will disappear, but the infection stays in the body and can progress into the third stage causing damage to the brain, heart, and nervous system, and even death. Syphilis in women can seriously harm a developing fetus during pregnancy.	Increased risk for infection of other STDs, including HIV. Chronic, persistent inflammation of the liver and later cirrhosis or cancer of the liver. All babies are immunized at birth. If you are infected, your baby must receive extra immunizations at birth.	Increased risk for infection of other STDs. HIV can weaken the body's ability to fight disease, making an HIV-infected person more vulnerable to certain other infections, such as pneumonia.