

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

An active sex life is normal and healthy, but there are more than 30 STDs that can complicate your life. One out of four Americans between the ages of 15 and 55 will catch one or more Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). So if you're sexually active you have good reason to be concerned.

Many STDs frequently have no symptoms. Therefore, millions of people don't realize that they're infected until serious or often permanent damage has occurred. To protect yourself from syphilis, HIV and other STDs you should practice safer sex by using a condom when engaging in sexual intercourse. If you suspect that you or your partner have contracted an STD, see a doctor or clinician right away.

COMMON STDs	SYMPTOMS	SPREAD	DIAGNOSIS	TREATMENT	COMMENTS
Bacterial Vaginosis	a heavy and unusual grayish frothy vaginal discharge that may have an unpleasant odor. Vaginal irritations may occur usually due to another infection.	is contracted through vaginal intercourse.	is made by microscopic examination of vaginal discharge.	both partners take antibiotics orally.	
Candidiasis or monilial vaginitis (yeast infection)	a thick white vaginal discharge; irritation or itching of the vulva, penis, or testicles; a yeasty odor, and sometimes, a bloated discomfort and change in bowel habits.	is contracted through vaginal, anal and oral intercourse	is made by microscopic examination of vaginal discharge and laboratory culture.	both partners take antibacterial creams, ointments, or suppositories. Prepared vinegar and water douches may offer help.	* When yeast appears in the mouth, throat, or tongue, it is called "thrush".
Chancroid	the first symptom is a small boil or ulcer, usually located on the genitals, that doesn't heal normally. The chancroid becomes an open sore, sometimes painful, more frequently for men than women. If left untreated, it can infect glands located in the groin.	is contracted through vaginal, anal and oral intercourse	is made by examination of the sore and by microscopic examination of its discharge.	take antibiotics orally	
Crabs (crab louse) and Public Lice	intense itching in the pubic area caused by the sucking and biting of the bugs.	sexual or close personal contact; exchange of undergarments, bedding, clothing, and on toilet seats.	self examination since the pubic lice can be seen with naked eye or with magnify glass. They look like tiny crabs.	eliminated by the powders, sprays containing certain chemicals under a doctors supervision even though over the counter medications can be used.	
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	infections caused by CMV often have no symptoms. When they do occur they include swollen glands, fatigue, irritations of digestive tract, nausea, diarrhea and loss of vision	sexual contact or close personal contact, blood transfusions, shared needles or from a woman to her fetus, and through breast-feeding causing serious damage to infants central nervous system.	a blood test	there is no successful treatment or cure	
Chlamydia	a discharge from penis or vagina, burning during urination, increased urination, excessive bleeding from vagina, abdominal pain, nausea, fever, arthritis, or painful intercourse for women.	is contracted through vaginal, and anal intercourse, from the birth canal to newborn, and rarely from the hand to eye.	is made by microscopic examination of tissue samples and is often difficult to depict.	follow in detail prescribed treatment using tetracycline	* Women usually don't have any until damage is done or partner is diagnosed with the disease. Chlamydia can cause sterility in women. It infects the cervix, ovaries, fallopian tubes and the urethra. Also it can cause bladder and serious pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) often with few symptoms.
Genital Warts	warts on the genitals, in the urethra, the anus, and less frequently in the throat. They are not always visible, soft to the touch and appear as miniature cauliflower florets.	is contracted through vaginal, anal and oral intercourse.	observed by a doctor's examination or clinician during a physical exam.	they can be removed surgically, with acid, by freezing, or with electric needles and with medication which must be carefully applied only to the wart because it is irritating surrounding skin.	