Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)



General Information

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are infections that you get from having sex (oral, vaginal, anal). STIs affect <u>everyone</u> - people of all genders and sexual orientations! STIs can be prevented by using condoms during all sexual activity, making sure you and your partner both test for STIs before you start having any kind of sex (oral, anal, vaginal) with any new partners, and limiting the number of partners you have. Talk to your provider for treatment options.

Types of STIs



Chlamydia

<u>Will I see symptoms?</u> Most people don't feel any differently and don't notice anything different with their body (especially people with vaginas!)

<u>Potential symptoms?</u> Discharge that is yellow or green, burning when you pee.

<u>What could happen if I don't get treated?</u> Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, problems in pregnancy, and infertility. You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.



<u>Will I see symptoms?</u> In males, symptoms can show up anywhere from 1 to 10 days after infection. In some cases, symptoms take even longer to appear. For females, most do not experience symptoms.

<u>Potential symptoms?</u> Abnormal genital discharge, pain or difficulty with peeing. <u>What could happen if I don't get treated?</u> Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, problems in pregnancy, and infertility. You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.



Herpes

<u>Will I see symptoms?</u> Many people show few or no symptoms. If you develop sores, you may already be contagious.

<u>Potential symptoms?</u> Painful blisters or sores in the genital area and/or in the mouth; tingling or burning in the legs, buttocks, or genital area before the blisters show up.

What could happen if I don't get treated? If untreated, it can cause serious issues such as yeast infections, difficulty peeing, and potentially meningitis (infection and swelling around the brain and spinal cord). You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.



<u>Will I see symptoms?</u> There are many different symptoms you may experience, anywhere from 10-90 days after exposure and lasting anywhere from 3-6 months.

<u>Potential symptoms?</u> Painless on the penis, vagina, skin around the genital area, in the mouth, or on the lips.

Syphilis

<u>What could happen if I don't get treated?</u> If untreated, it can cause a rash or problems with the heart, brain, and nerves. You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.

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Types of STIs (cont'd)



(Trich)

Will I see symptoms? Trich is the most common STI, and over 70% of infected people do not see symptoms.

Potential symptoms? Itching, burning, irritation, swelling, redness or soreness of the genital area, discomfort when you pee or have sex, burning after ejaculation for men, discharge from penis or vagina (discharge could become very thin or increase in volume; may change color or have an unusual fishy smell). What could happen if I don't get treated? It can increase your risk of getting other STIs, such as HIV. You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.

Virus (HIV)

Will I see symptoms? Usually, no symptoms show until a long time after infection. Potential symptoms? Approximately 2-4 weeks after infection, you may have flulike symptoms (fever, cough, swollen lymph nodes, diarrhea, etc.).

What could happen if I don't get treated? It weakens your immune system, making Immunodeficiency you very susceptible to life-threatening diseases and certain forms of cancer. If you don't get treated, HIV can kill you. You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.



Hepatitis B

Will I see symptoms? Symptoms will appear anywhere from 2-5 months. Potential symptoms? Fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, stomachaches, dark urine, grey stool, and yellow eyes/skin.

What could happen if I don't get treated? It can lead to chronic hepatitis B which is life-long. Potential liver disease, cancer, and in some cases death. You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.



Will I see symptoms? Many types of HPV cause no symptoms, but some types can. Potential symptoms? Genital warts inside or on the outside areas of the genitals. What could happen if I don't get treated? Cervical cancer, anal cancer, vulvar cancer, and vaginal cancer. Rare cases of oral/throat cancer. You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.



Will I see symptoms? Many people do not have any symptoms.

<u>Potential symptoms?</u> Discharge from the penis (watery discharge) or vagina; discomfort, burning, stinging, or pain when you pee. For women, pain and/or bleeding during/after sex; bleeding between periods, and pain in your pelvic area below your belly button.

What could happen if I don't get treated? Can lead to urethritis (irritated and swollen urethra), Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, infertility, cervicitis (inflamed cervix). You could also pass it on to your sexual partners.