

HERPES

Transmission:

Skin-to-skin contact with someone who is infected. This usually occurs during anal, vaginal, or oral sex.

Symptoms:

- painful blisters or sores on the vagina, vulva, cervix, penis, butt, anus, or inside of the thighs
- itching/pain around the genitals
- difficulty urinating
- flu-like symptoms
- sores on the lips or around the mouth

Testing:

If sores are present at the time of examination, they can be swabbed to test for the STD. Otherwise, it can be tested for with a blood sample.

Treatment:

There is no cure for this STD. It can be treated with prescription medication which reduces the symptoms, ends breakouts sooner, and reduces transmission rate.

CHLAMYDIA

Transmission:

This bacterial infection is transmitted during vaginal, anal, or oral sex through semen and vaginal fluids. It can infect the penis, vagina, cervix, anus, urethra, eyes, and throat.

Symptoms:

Often times people with this STD do not have any symptoms. If they do occur, they may look like:

- pain or burning while urinating or during intercourse
- lower belly pain
- swollen or tender testicles
- abnormal discharge

Testing:

Urine tests or swab tests of affected areas are used to test for this infection.

Treatment:

Antibiotics can be prescribed to treat this STD. It is essential that the full course of antibiotics are taken and that a clean test is procured before treatment is stopped.

GONORRHEA

Transmission: This bacterial infection is transmitted during vaginal, anal, or oral sex through semen and vaginal fluids.

Symptoms: Often times people with this STD do not have any symptoms. If they do occur, they may look like:

- pain or burning while urinating or during intercourse
- swollen or tender testicles
- abnormal discharge

Testing: Urine tests or swab tests of affected areas are used to test for this infection.

Treatment: Antibiotics can be prescribed to treat this STD. It is essential that the full course of antibiotics are taken and that a clean test is procured before treatment is stopped.



HPV

Transmission:

this viral infection is transmitted by skin to skin contact of the vulva, vagina, cervix, penis, or anus with an infected individual's genitals, mouth, or throat.

Symptoms:

Often times people with this STD do not have any symptoms. In fact, there are over 40 different kinds of this virus which impact the genital, mouth, and throat area. Two versions of this virus (6 and 11) have been found to cause genital warts.

Testing:

There is not a specific test that detects this virus. Pap smears can detect abnormal cell changes and there is a test that can detect some high risk versions of this virus, as a follow up to pap smears. For those with penises, there is no test available.

Treatment:

There is no cure for this virus, but there is a vaccination which is the best defense against the cancer and genital warts that are a byproduct of infection. Regular pap smears are also good practice. Genital warts can be removed by a doctor.

SYPHILIS

Transmission:

This bacterial infection is transmitted by skin-to-skin contact primarily through vaginal and anal sex. It is also possible to get it through oral sex, although less common.

Symptoms:

In the primary stage sores may form on the vulva, vagina, anus, penis, scrotum, or mouth. The sores are usually firm, round, and painless.

In the secondary stage, a rash may form. It will likely be hard to see and not itchy. There may also be flu-like symptoms.

Testing:

This infection can be tested for with a blood sample or a swab sample at the site of an open sore.

Treatment:

If the infection is caught in time, it can be easily cured with antibiotics. If it is left untreated it can cause tumors, blindness, and paralysis, damage the nervous system, brain and other organs, and even death.