

Common Sexually Transmitted Illnesses: STI 101

Developed by
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Communications Branch, in partnership with
the Program Development and Support Branch,
Division of STD Prevention
NCHSTP, CDC



Gonorrhea

- Gonorrhea is sometimes called clap, drip, dose, strain, gleet or the whites
- Incubation period: 1 – 14 days
- A bacteria causes gonorrhea
- Can cause infections in men, women, and new babies
- The person can easily pass it on to sex partners and babies during childbirth

Gonorrhea Symptoms in Men

- Discharge from the penis (may be thick, milky white, yellowish, or greenish)
- Burning on urination

Complications in Men

- Swollen or tender testicles (epididymitis)
- Disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI)

Disseminated Gonococcal (Gonorrhea) Infection



Source: CDC/NCHSTP/Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

Gonorrhea Symptoms in Women

- Usually asymptomatic
- Painful urination
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Pain during sex

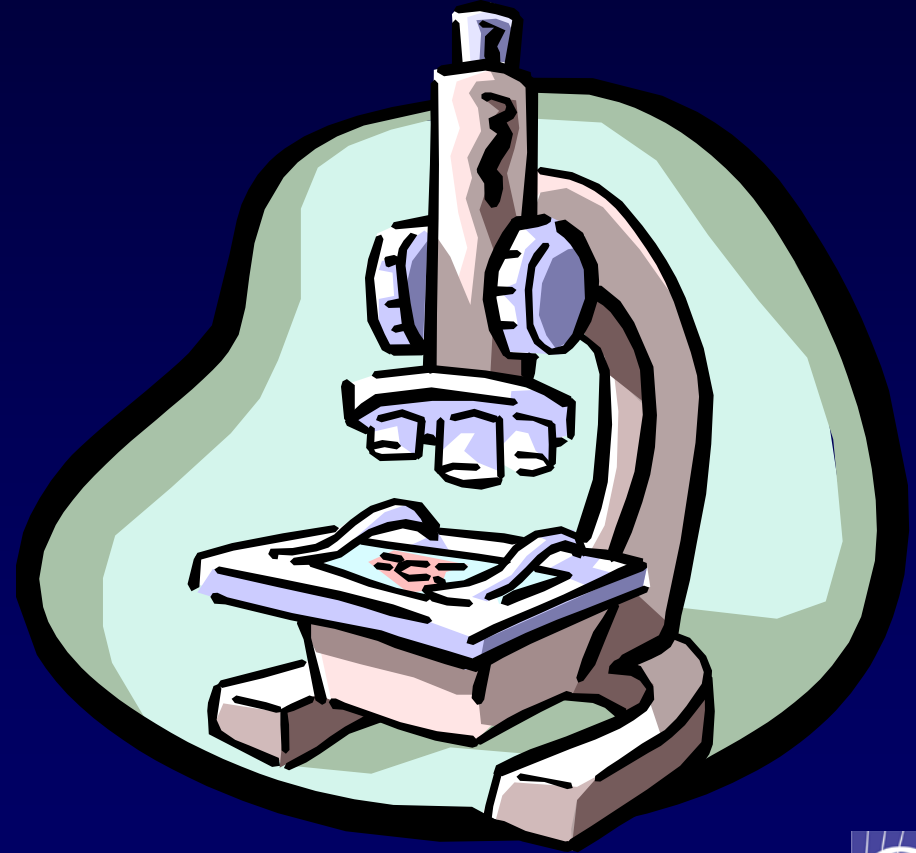
Gonorrhea in Infants

- A mother can pass gonorrhea to her baby during childbirth



Testing & Treatment for Gonorrhea

- Easily detected by a urine test or swab; and
- Easily cured with antibiotics; but
- Any damage to the body cannot be repaired.



Chlamydia

- Can cause infection in men, women, and newborn babies
- Chlamydia is caused by a bacteria
- Incubation Period: 2-3 weeks
- The person can pass it on to sex partners and to babies during childbirth

Symptoms of Chlamydia

Symptoms in Women:

- **Usually asymptomatic**
- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Pain during sex

Complications, if not treated:

- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)

Symptoms in Men:

- **Usually asymptomatic**
- Discharge from the penis (may be runny, whitish)
- Burning on urination

Complications, if not treated

- Swollen and tender testicles (epididymitis)

Testing & Treatment for Chlamydia

- Easily detected by a urine test or a swab; and
- Easily cured with antibiotics; but
- Any damage to the body cannot be repaired



Syphilis

- Syphilis is sometimes called “bad blood ,” pox, lues, or a “zipper cut”
- Syphilis is caused by a bacteria
- Incubation Period: 10-90 days (average 21 days)
- Can cause infections in men, women, and unborn babies during pregnancy

Symptoms of Syphilis

Primary Stage

- A painless sore called a chancre may be located on the genitals, lips, anus, or other area of direct contact
- The chancre will last 1-5 weeks and heal without treatment
- The person can easily pass it on to sex partners

Oral Primary Syphilis Chancre



Source: CDC/ NCHSTP/ Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

Symptoms of Syphilis

Secondary Stage

- Skin rashes lasting 2 – 6 weeks (average of 4 weeks) on the palms of the hands, bottoms of the feet, or any part of the body
- Other symptoms include fever, swollen lymph glands, headache, hair loss, and muscle ache
- Symptoms will go away without treatment
- The person may be able to pass it on to sex partners

Secondary Syphilis Rash



Source: Florida STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

Secondary Syphilis Rash



Source: Cincinnati STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

Secondary Syphilis Palm Rash



Source: CDC/ NCHSTP/ Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

Symptoms of Syphilis

Late Stage

- Paralysis
- Insanity
- Blindness
- Damage to knee joints
- Personality changes
- Impotency
- Aneurysm (ballooning of a blood vessel)
- Tumor on the skin or internal organs

Late Stage Syphilis Ulcerating Gumma



Source: CDC/ NCHSTP/ Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

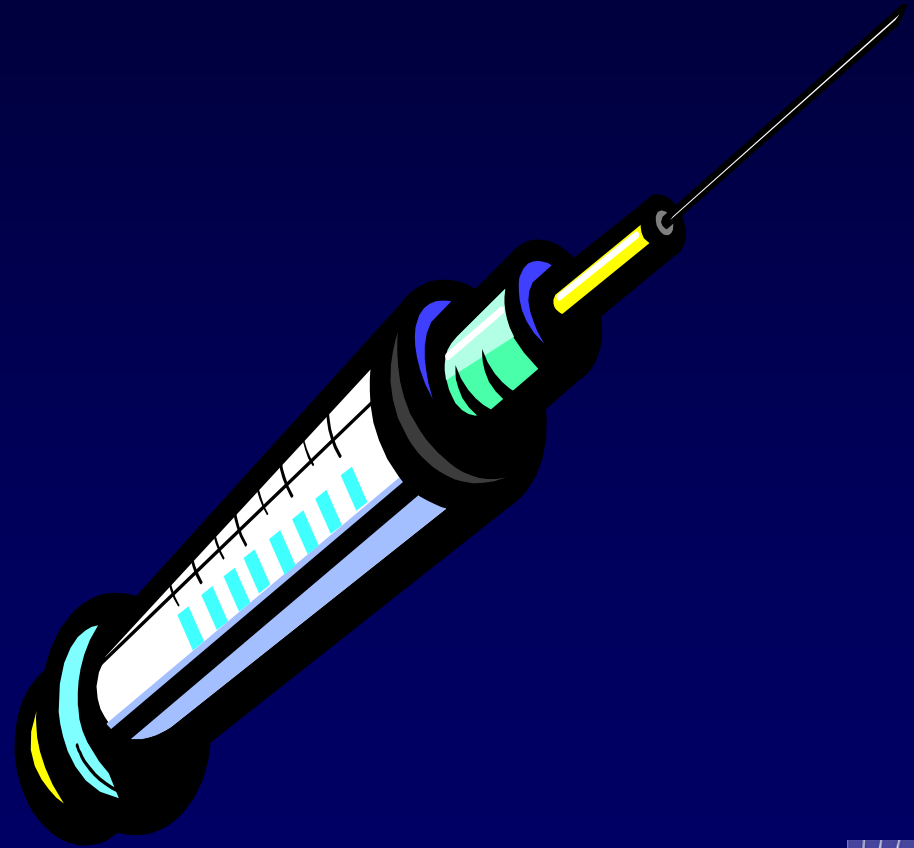
Congenital Syphilis

- A mother can pass syphilis on to her unborn child



Testing & Treatment for Syphilis

- Easily detected by a blood test; and
- Easily cured with antibiotics;
- Any damage done to the body cannot be repaired.



Genital Herpes

- Causes infection in men, women, and newborns
- Herpes simplex viruses (HSV) cause genital herpes infections.
- Incubation period: 2 – 12 days
- The person can easily pass it on to sex partners and babies during childbirth

Genital Herpes: Two Types

- There are 2 types of HSV: HSV-1 and HSV-2.
 - HSV-2 causes most genital infections.
 - HSV-1 causes oral infections (cold sores, fever blisters) and some genital infections.

Symptoms of Genital Herpes

- Numerous painful lesions (sores)
 - On the penis, vagina, anus, buttocks, thighs, mouth, or finger
 - Last up to 4 – 21 days
- Other symptoms include headache, fever, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, and difficult urination.
- Symptoms may or may not come back.

Genital Herpes Without Symptoms

- Many people with herpes do not have any symptoms or do not recognize that they have symptoms.
- Most people with herpes can pass the virus to sex partners even when they do not have symptoms.

You can get Herpes Anywhere



Source: Cincinnati STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

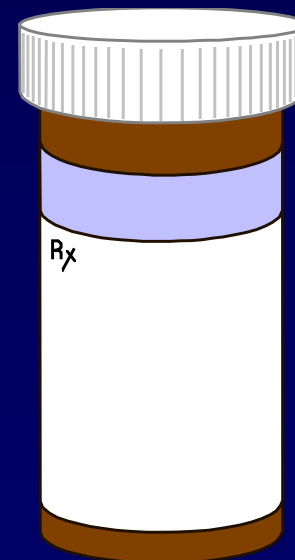
Herpes Complications

- HSV-2 causes serious problems when it is passed to newborns during birth.



Testing & Treatment for Genital Herpes

- Can be detected by:
 - culturing the lesion
 - blood test
- Herpes cannot be cured, but symptoms can be treated with medicines called antivirals.
- You can still spread herpes even if you are taking antiviral medicine!



Human Papillomavirus

- Many types of Human Papillomavirus (HPV), some of which infect the genital area
- Incubation period unclear
- Can infect men, women, and newborns
- The person can easily pass it on to sex partners

Genital HPV: Two Types

- The types of HPV that infect the genital area are labeled “low-risk” or “high-risk” depending on whether they can cause cancer or not.
- Low-risk HPV types can cause genital warts.
- High-risk HPV types can cause serious cervical lesions, cervical cancer, and other genital cancers.

Symptoms of Genital HPV Infection

- Usually asymptomatic and brief (6 – 12 months)
- Genital warts (usually infection with low-risk type of HPV)
 - Warts on the penis, vagina, anus or urethra
 - Rarely may have itching, bleeding, burning, or pain along with the warts
 - May go away on their own, stay about the same, or get worse

Symptoms of Genital HPV Infection

- Cervical lesions (usually infection with high-risk type of HPV)
 - Usually no symptoms
 - Detected by Pap smear
 - Most will go away on their own
 - Some will persist and need to be followed by health care provider
 - Most women with high-risk HPV types do not get cervical cancer

Testing & Treatment for Genital Warts

- Genital Warts
 - No tests for genital warts
 - Several types of treatment are available
 - Warts may come back
- Cervical lesions and cervical cancer
 - Regular Pap smears are best way to detect serious lesions and prevent cervical cancer
 - Pap smear screening is recommended for all sexually active women



How did I get pubic lice?

- Pubic lice usually are spread through sexual contact and are most common in adults. Occasionally, pubic lice may be spread by close personal contact or contact with articles such as clothing, bed linens, or towels that have been used by an infested person. A common misunderstanding is that pubic lice are spread easily by sitting on a toilet seat. This would be extremely rare because lice cannot live long away from a warm human body and they do not have feet designed to hold onto or walk on smooth surfaces such as toilet seats.

- Persons infested with pubic lice should be investigated for the presence of other sexually transmitted diseases.

