Sexually Transmitted Diseases

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/sexuallytransmitteddiseases.html

Also called: Sexually transmitted infections, STDs, Venereal disease

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are infections that you can get from having sex with someone who has the infection. The causes of STDs are bacteria, parasites and viruses. There are more than 20 types of STDs, including

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- Genital herpes
- HIV/AIDS
- HPV
- Syphilis
- Trichomoniasis

Most STDs affect both men and women, but in many cases the health problems they cause can be more severe for women. If a pregnant woman has an STD, it can cause serious health problems for the baby.

If you have an STD caused by bacteria or parasites, your health care provider can treat it with antibiotics or other medicines. If you have an STD caused by a virus, there is no cure. Sometimes medicines can keep the disease under control. Correct usage of latex condoms greatly reduces, but does not completely eliminate, the risk of catching or spreading STDs.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Start Here

Overviews
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/sexually-transmitted-diseases-stds/DS01123/METHOD=print&DSECTION=all] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) [http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/std/Pages/default.aspx] NIH (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/stds/Pages/default.aspx] NIH (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Latest News

Diagnosis/Symptoms

Treatment
- Treatments for Specific Types of STDs/STIs [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/stds/conditioninfo/Pages/specific.aspx] NIH (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Prevention/Screening
- Condoms [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/condoms/MY00654/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- How to Prevent Sexually Transmitted Diseases [http://www.acog.org/~/media/For%20Patients/faq009.ashx] (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) - PDF

Specific Conditions
- Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphilis [http://www.acog.org/~/media/For%20Patients/faq071.ashx] (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) - PDF
- Granuloma Inguinale [http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/print/infections/sexually_transmitted_diseases/granuloma_inguinale.htm] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
- Molluscum (Molluscum Contagiosum) [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/molluscum/faq/everyone.htm] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Pubic "Crab" Lice [http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/pubic/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- What Are Some Types of STDs/STIs? [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/stds/conditioninfo/Pages/types.aspx] NIH (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Related Issues
- Cervicitis [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/cervicitis/DS00518/DSECTION=all&METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
  Also available in Spanish [http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/es/diseases-conditions/hepatitis-b.printerview.all.html]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/std/Spanish/STDFact-HIV-and-STDs-s.htm]
- STDs and Related Conditions (and Oral Health) [http://www.simplestepsdental.com/SS/ihtSSPrint/rt/WSIHW000/st.31848/t.32263/pr.3/c.354212.html]
Pictures & Photographs
- Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV) [http://www.skinsight.com/adult/lymphogranulomaVenereumLGV.htm] (Logical Images)
- Molluscum Contagiosum [http://www.skinsight.com/adult/molluscumContagiosum.htm] (Logical Images)
- Pubic Lice (Pediculosis Pubis) [http://www.skinsight.com/adult/pediculosisPubisPubicLice.htm] (Logical Images)

Health Check Tools

Tutorials

Clinical Trials

Journal Articles
References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)
- Article: NHS spending squeeze will lead to rises in abortion and... [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23540010?tool=MedlinePlus]

Organizations
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [http://www.cdc.gov/]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/]
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [http://www.niaid.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx] NIAID

Statistics
• Reportable STDs in Young People 15-24 Years of Age, by State [http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/age/15-24-all-STDs/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Teenagers
• About Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) [http://kidshealth.org/teen/sexual_health/stds/std.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/sexual/std_esp.html]
• Public Lice (for Parents) [http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/parasitic/public_lice.html] (Nemours Foundation)
• STDs (for Parents) [http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/std/talk_child_stds.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/infecciones/talk_child_stds_esp.html]
• Straight Talk about Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) [http://www.girlshealth.gov/body/sexuality/sti.html] (Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)
• Talking to Your Partner about Condoms [http://kidshealth.org/teen/sexual_health/contraception/talk_about_condoms.html] (Nemours Foundation)
  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/sexual/talk_about_condoms_espanol.html]

Men
• How Can Men Reduce the Risk of Getting a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)? [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/menshealth/conditioninfo/Pages/risk.aspx] NIH (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Women
• 10 Ways STDs Impact Women Differently from Men [http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/STDs-Women-042011.pdf] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF
• Sexually Transmitted Infections [http://womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/sexually-transmitted-infections.cfm] (Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/std/Spanish/STDFact-Pregnancy-s.htm]

Seniors
• Safe Sex Tips for Seniors [http://www.healthinaging.org/resources/resource:safe-sex-tips-for-seniors/] (AGS Foundation for Health in Aging)

Patient Handouts
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000635.htm]
• Condom Fact Sheet in Brief [http://www.cdc.gov/condomeffectiveness/docs/CondomFactsheetInBrief.pdf] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/condomeffectiveness/Spanish/docs/Condom_fact_Sheet_in_Brief_spanish.pdf]
• Donovanosis (granuloma inguinale) [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000636.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000636.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003222.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003221.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001949.htm]
You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Donovansiosis (granuloma inguinale) [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000636.htm]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/pelvicinflammatiorydisease.html]

The primary NIH organization for research on Sexually Transmitted Diseases is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [http://www.niaid.nih.gov/]

Sexually Transmitted Diseases - Multiple Languages

Date last updated: 16 July 2013
Topic last reviewed: 29 January 2013