

Sexually Transmissible Diseases

- STD's are transmitted during vaginal, oral or anal sex.
- Not all STD's are transmitted in the same way.
- If sexually active, condoms are the best defense against STD's.

Bacterial STD's can be treated and cured.

Chlamydia: Bacteria that can infect mouth, vagina, urethra or rectum. Condom use protects against this infection. Often it has no symptoms. If left untreated, it can lead to infertility. It is curable with medicine.

Gonorrhea: Bacteria that can infect mouth, vagina, urethra or rectum. Condom use protects against this infection. Often it has no symptoms. If left untreated, it can lead to infertility.

Syphilis: Is usually transmitted through skin to skin contact with a syphilis sore, called a "chancre." Chancres appear shortly after infection with syphilis and then disappears, even if the person is still infected. Condom use covering the chancre helps protect against this infection.

Viral STD's can be treated.

Herpes: Viral infection transmitted through skin to skin contact at the place a person has herpes. Can be transmitted when no herpes sores or symptoms are present. Oral herpes ("fever blisters") can be passed to genitals during oral sex.

HIV: Virus that causes AIDS. Transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal/cervical secretions & breast milk. Latex Condoms are very effective in preventing the spread of HIV!

HPV: Transmitted through skin to skin contact with someone who has HPV. Cervical HPV can lead to cervical abnormalities and in rare cases, cervical cancer. An HPV vaccine is now available for women!