

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are infections that people can get by having sex with someone who is infected. There are many different kinds of STIs. You may have heard of Chlamydia, herpes, HPV, syphilis and gonorrhea. There are many other kinds as well. STIs are much more common than you think. Anyone who has sex can get an STI, and it can be transmitted through vaginal, anal or oral sex. Common STI symptoms include sores on the genitals, discharge, itching, a burning sensation during urination, dark or smelly urine, strange rashes or spots on your body, bumps, blisters, warts, or lesions on the genitals, unusual odors, and white spots in your pubic hair.

Remember: Many STIs do not show symptoms. STIs can make you unable to have children, cause birth defects or diseases in babies. Some STIs are painful. A few can even kill you.

Most sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) syphilis, gonorrhea, or Chlamydia are curable if detected early, although some like HIV and herpes are not, and can only be managed, and NOT curable.

TREATMENT

Only use medicines prescribed or suggested by your doctor. Some drugs sold over the Internet claim to prevent or treat STIs better than medicines your doctor prescribes. In most cases this is not true, and you may not know exactly what you're getting where an Internet pharmacy may try to sell unapproved drugs, or drugs with the wrong active ingredient. Treatment for an STI does not protect you from contracting the same or other STIs in the future. You should get tested if you have had unprotected sex regardless of whether you have had treatment in the past. Re-infections are common if you fail to complete your prescribed treatment. It is also possible to have more than one STI at a time.



PREVENTION

Use a condom every time you have sex. Latex or polyurethane (plastic) condoms are best. Birth control methods, other than condoms, will not protect you from STI's. It is safest to have sex with only one person who only has sex with you. If either of you have sex with other people, you can get STI's. The more people that you or your partner have sex with, the more likely that you will get an STI. If you or your partner has sores or bumps around the vagina, penis or mouth, don't have sex or touch the sores. Get a check-up and wait until the clinic says it is safe.

TRANSMISSION

Though some STDs like Herpes-1 can be transmitted through mouth-to-mouth contact, cold sores are a symptom of Herpes Simplex Virus-1 (Herpes 1). They are easily transmitted through kissing or oral sex. Most STIs are transmitted through sexual intercourse.

INDICATIONS FOR TESTING

Many STIs in women do not cause specific symptoms; whereas others may cause fever and flu-like symptoms, genital itching, burning, or discomfort, vaginal discharge, swollen lymph nodes pressure in the abdomen, or thick, cloudy or bloody discharge from the vagina.

People who have unprotected sex with multiple partners are at high risk for contracting one or more STI.

CAUSE: Sexually transmitted pathogenic bacteria, parasites or viruses.

PATHOGENS TESTED: See Table in Info Sheet

METHODOLOGY: Retrogen's Laboratory methodology uses the TaqMan® genotyping assay with PCR and allelic specific primer extension (ARMS) to identify the pathogens present in vaginal swabs.

ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFICITY: 99 percent.

ORDERING

Test ID:

Turn-around Time: 2 Weeks

Preferred Specimen: Vaginal swab.

[Click Here for Specimen Collection and Shipping](#)

BILLING

CPT Codes: see Table in Info Sheet

Billing Information: [View Billing Information](#)

WEB RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Questions and Answers found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/qa/index.htm>, accessed 6-14-11.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention, Division of STI Prevention, CDC Fact Sheets found at: http://www.cdc.gov/STI/healthcomm/fact_sheets.htm,

accessed 6-14-11.

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