

What Parents Need to Know About Sexually Transmitted Diseases

There are over 25 Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). The most common ones are:

Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Diseases				Viral Sexually Transmitted Diseases				
Common STDs	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis	Trichomoniasis (parasite)	Genital Herpes: Herpes simplex virus	Human Papilloma-virus (HPV)	Hepatitis B	HIV/AIDS
Where is it found?	Vagina, Cervix, Urethra, throat, discharge from Penis, and rectum.	Vagina, Cervix, Urethra, throat, and rectum.	Genital area, mouth, skin, anus and rectum	Vagina, Cervix, and Urethra	Genitals and/or Rectum	Vagina, Cervix, Penis, Vulva, Anus, Scrotum, and other Genital Areas	Blood, Semen and Vaginal Fluid	Blood, Semen, Cervical and Vaginal Fluid, and Breast Milk
How can it be spread?	Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Mother to child.	Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Mother to child.	Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Contact with sores; Mother to child.	Vaginal sex	Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Contact with infected skin; Rarely mother to child.	Anal and Vaginal sex; Contact with infected skin; Rarely mother to child.	Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; IV drug use; Mother to child.	Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; IV drug use; Mother to child.
What are the possible symptoms and complications?	May not have early symptoms; burning or pain with urination; discharge from penis and vagina; chronic low abdomen pain; pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility may result (mostly in females.)	Males: often have no symptoms, may be burning or pain with urination. Females: often have no symptoms, may have vaginal discharge, may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) infertility.	Painless sore, untreated may spread to brain and/or heart; flu-like symptoms; damage to major body systems if untreated; can cause rash on infant's skin, birth defects or other problems with organs or possible stillbirth.	Vaginal discharge and itching; burning during urination; Males may have no noticeable symptoms, but can cause temporary irritation in penis; may cause early delivery and low birth weight babies.	Often no symptoms are present; painful blisters or sores, fever and swollen glands may occur; symptoms can recur throughout life, rarely serious infection can occur when passed to newborns.	Most have no symptoms, but some can get genital warts; can cause cancer of the cervix, vulva, vagina, anus and penis.	Often there are no obvious symptoms; jaundice, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, fatigue, joint pain; can lead to liver cancer and liver failure.	No early symptoms or some flu-like symptoms that are often not noticed; rash; weakens immune system; multiple severe infections.
Prevention	Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing and treatment.	Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing and treatment.	Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing and treatment.	Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing and treatment.	Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing and treatment.	HPV vaccine (for some strains of HPV); Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk.	Hepatitis B vaccine, Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Do not share needles; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing.	Abstain from sex; faithful marriage or mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner; Do not share needles; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing.
Prevention What are the treatments?	Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment.)	Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment.)	Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment.)	Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment.)	Symptom control that can help reduce recurrences, but no cure.	No cure for infection, but medications can remove visible genital warts. Regular Pap testing and follow-up medical treatment may deter development of cervical cancer.	Chronic infection can be treated with medication. No cure.	Symptom control with medicines (antiretroviral drugs); Lifetime treatment is required; No cure.

Sources:

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