### Common Sexually Transmitted Diseases

#### Chlamydia
- **Where is it found?** Vagina, Cervix, Urethra, throat, discharge from Pen is, and rectum.
- **How can it be spread?** Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Mother to child.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** May not have early symptoms; burning or pain with urination; discharge from penis and vagina; chronic low abdo men pain; pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility may result (mostly in females).
- **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.
- **What are the treatments?** Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment).

#### Gonorrhea
- **Where is it found?** Vagina, Cervix, Urethra, throat, and rectum.
- **How can it be spread?** Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Mother to child.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** Males: often no symptoms, may be burning or pain with urination. Females: often no symptoms, may have vaginal discharge, may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) infertility.
- **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.
- **What are the treatments?** Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment).

#### Syphilis
- **Where is it found?** Genital area, mouth, skin, anus and rectum.
- **How can it be spread?** Vaginal sex.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** 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.
- **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.
- **What are the treatments?** Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment).

#### Trichomoniasis (parasite)
- **Where is it found?** Vagina, Cervix, Urethra, and Rectum.
- **How can it be spread?** Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Contact with sores; Mother to child.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** 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.
- **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.
- **What are the treatments?** Antibiotics (permanent damage may have occurred prior to treatment).

#### Genital Herpes: Herpes simplex virus
- **Where is it found?** Genitals and/or Rectum.
- **How can it be spread?** Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; Contact with infected skin; Rarely mother to child.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** 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.
- **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.
- **What are the treatments?** Symptom control that can help reduce recurrences, but no cure.

#### Human Papilloma-virus (HPV)
- **Where is it found?** Vagina, Cervix, Penis, Vulva, Anus, Scrotum, and other Genital Areas.
- **How can it be spread?** Anal and Vaginal sex; Contact with infected skin; Rarely mother to child.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** Most have no symptoms, but some can get genital warts; can cause cancer of the cervix, vulva, vagina, anus and penis.
- **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.
- **What are the treatments?** 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; Testing.

#### Hepatitis B
- **Where is it found?** Blood, Semen and Vaginal Fluid.
- **How can it be spread?** Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; IV drug use; Mother to child.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** Often there are no obvious symptoms; jaundice, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, fatigue, joint pain; can lead to liver cancer and liver failure.
- **Prevention** 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.
- **What are the treatments?** 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.

#### HIV/AIDS
- **Where is it found?** Blood, Semen, Cervical and Vaginal Fluid, and Breast Milk.
- **How can it be spread?** Oral, Anal, and Vaginal sex; IV drug use; Mother to child.
- **Possible symptoms and complications?** 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; Do not share needles; Condoms used correctly and consistently reduce but do not eliminate the risk; Testing.
- **What are the treatments?** Symptom control with medicines (antiretroviral drugs); Lifetime treatment is required; No cure.

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**Sources:**

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**What Parents Need to Know About Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

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

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