

NGO Initiatives to Prevent HIV/AIDS



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WHAT ARE STIs?

Sexually Transmitted Infections or STIs are infections that is primarily transmitted through sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal and oral).

Most STIs can be cured while others can only be treated and can be lifelong infections.

If left untreated STIs may lead to serious complications such as:

- Ectopic pregnancy
- Infertility
- Certain Cancers
- Death

THE LINK BETWEEN STI and HIV/AIDS

The presence of an STI increases a person's risk of getting infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, because:

- There are more receptors (white blood cells) for HIV if infected with an STI
- Genital inflammation causes cuts and abrasions that allows HIV to enter the body

WHAT SHOULD A PERSON DO IF THEY EXPERIENCE THESE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

- Consult a doctor immediately
- Do not self-medicate
- Avoid sexual contact during treatment period
- Encourage partner to seek treatment

A PERSON'S RISK OF GETTING INFECTED WITH AN STI INCREASES WHEN:

- You have multiple sex partners
- Your partner has multiple partners
- Your partner is infected with an STI

HOW CAN PEOPLE PREVENT THEMSELVES FROM GETTING AN STI?

- A - Abstinence, no sexual contact
- B - Be mutually monogamous. Stick to one sex partner only.
- C - Correct and consistent condom use and practice safer sex
- D - Don't use drugs, don't share syringes when injecting drugs

GONORRHEA



- Symptoms usually appear as early as 1 day or as late as 12 days after sexual contact
- Milky yellowish discharge from penis or vagina
- Burning sensation or painful urination when urinating
- Lower abdominal pain for women
- Curable

CHLAMYDIA



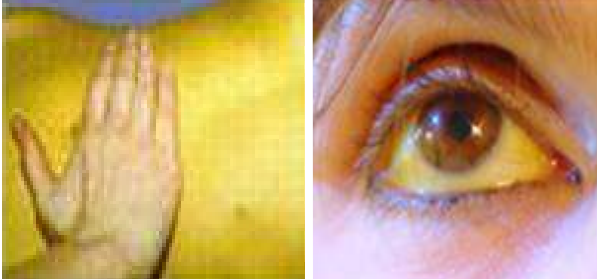
- Symptoms usually appear as early as 1 day or as late as 12 days after sexual contact
- Clear whitish discharge from penis or vagina
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Lower abdominal pain for women
- Curable

PUBIC LICE



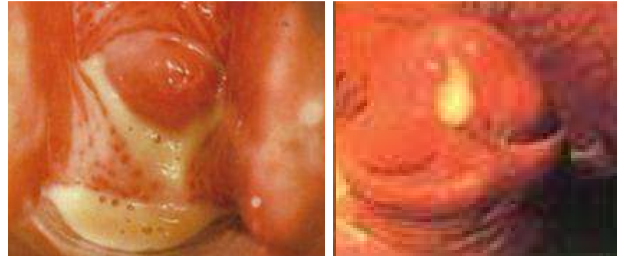
- Severe itchiness in the genital area
- Elevated red and pink spots in penis or vagina
- May be transferred through contact of genital area without sexual penetration
- Curable using a medicated shampoo

HEPATITIS B



- Some people do not experience any symptoms
- Symptoms are yellowing of skin and white of the eyes
- Fatigue
- Not curable, may lead to cancer of the liver
- There is a vaccine available

TRICHOMONIASIS



- Symptoms appear within 5 -28 days after sexual contact
- Frothy, yellow-green discharge with foul odor from penis or vagina
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Rarely seen in men
- Curable

CANDIDIASIS



- Foul smelling and cheesy discharge (like cottage cheese)
- Irresistible itching in vagina
- Pain during sexual intercourse
- Rare in men
- Curable

GENITAL WARTS



- Cauliflower- like growth in the penis, vagina and in or around the anus
- Causes pain and bleeding during sexual intercourse
- May lead to cervical cancer (women)
- Treatable only, may reappear

SYPHILIS THIRD STAGE



- Presence of gumma (a typical destructive lesion) which can affect any organ of the body
- Cardiovascular syphilis- develops 10-30 years after the primary stage
- Difficult or cannot be treated or cured

GENITAL HERPES



- Small, painful, multiple blisters on penis, vagina and anus
- Itching or pain in genital and anal area
- Burning sensation when urinating
- Treatable but not curable
- Infection may recur

SYPHILLIS PRIMARY STAGE



- Presence of single, painless sore (called chancre) in the penis, vagina, anus or mouth
- The sore (chancre) will heal by itself even without treatment after 1 week
- Curable but if left untreated, syphilis will be a life-long infection and will affect and destroy many part of the body such as the heart, lungs, and the brain

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SYPHILIS SECOND STAGE



- Presence of generalized rash in the body that will appear 3-6 weeks or 1-6 months after the appearance of chancre
- Fever and body pain
- Extreme fatigue
- May be treated and cured but with difficulty

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