

Curable STDs

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	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis	Trichomoniasis (Trich)
What is it?	A bacterial infection in the genital tract.	A bacterial infection in the genital tract.	An infection caused by small organisms, which can spread throughout the body.	A parasitic infection of the genital tract.
How many get it?	About 3 million Americans each year; the highest rate is among women aged 15 to 19.	Approximately 650,000 Americans a year; the highest rates are among women aged 15 to 19.	About 70,000 Americans a year.	As many as 3-4 million Americans each year.
Signs	There are NO symptoms in most women and many men who have it. Others may experience abnormal vaginal bleeding (not your period) or unusual discharge of pain within one to three weeks of having sex with an infected partner.	Most women have no symptoms. For men symptoms include a burning sensation while urinating, green or yellowish penile discharge, and for women abnormal vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain, and/or fever within 10 days of getting infected. It takes one to 14 days for symptoms such as discharge or pain to appear, though usually only two to three days for men.	In the first stage, painless sore(s) may appear on the genitals or mouth about three weeks to three months after exposure, lasting for three to six weeks. The second stage occurs about four to 10 weeks after the characteristic sore(s) appears, including a rash (on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet), though also on the stomach and back. One may also experience hair loss.	Often there are no symptoms, especially in men. Some women note a frothy, smelly, yellowish-green vaginal discharge, and/or genital area discomfort usually within 28 days after exposure to the parasite.
How it's spread.	Through vaginal or anal intercourse.	Through vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse.	Through vaginal, oral, or anal sex.	Through vaginal intercourse.
Treatment	Oral antibiotics cure the infection; both partners must be treated at the same time to prevent passing the infection back and forth and need to abstain from intercourse until the infection is gone.	Oral antibiotics. Both partners need to be treated at the same time to prevent passing the infection back and forth and need to abstain from intercourse until the infection is gone.	Antibiotic treatment can cure the disease if it's caught early, but medication can't undo the damage the disease has already done. Both partners must be treated at the same time.	Antibiotics can cure the infection. Both partners need to be treated at the same time to prevent passing the infection back and forth and need to abstain from intercourse until the infection is gone.

Consequences	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) in women, tubal (ectopic) pregnancy, <i>infertility in women</i> , and increased risk of HIV infection. <i>Chlamydia infection can cause complications to the newborn during delivery.</i>	PID, tubal (ectopic) pregnancy, sterility, and increased risk of HIV infection. It can also cause complications during pregnancy (including stillbirth) or infant blindness or meningitis (from an infected mom during delivery). <i>Complications for men include epididymitis (testicular swelling) or swelling of the penis.</i>	Increased risk of HIV infection. If syphilis is untreated about one-third of people who reach the disease's late phase may experience brain damage, heart disease, nerve damage, and other incapacitating health problems. It can seriously harm or even kill a developing fetus during pregnancy.	Increased risk of HIV infection; can cause complications during pregnancy.
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Holmes, King K. M.D., Ph.D., et. al. Sexually Transmitted Diseases. 3rd Edition. New York: Mc Graw Hill, 1999.

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