

# Incurable STDs

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	Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	Genital Herpes (HSV)	Genital Warts or Human Papilloma-virus (HPV)	Hepatitis B (HBV)
<b>What is it?</b>	A member of the human retrovirus family, affecting the immune system that can lead to AIDs (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).	A viral infection of the genital area and sometimes around the mouth.	A viral infection with <i>over 80</i> different types, <i>30 of which</i> primarily affect the genital area, both the outer and inner surfaces.	A viral infection primarily affecting the liver.
<b>How many get it?</b>	An estimated 650,000 to 900,000 Americans are living with HIV (3,851 are between the ages of 13 and 19).	Between 1 million Americans each year; an estimated 45 million Americans already have genital herpes.	An estimated 5.5 million Americans per year; about 20 million people already have it.	About 77,000 Americans a year; more than 750,000 in the United States now have HBV.
<b>Signs</b>	There might be flu-like symptoms immediately after an initial infection, but not always. People might not know they are infected unless an HIV antibody test is done. <i>The current average period of time from infection to diagnosis of AIDs is eight to 11 years.</i>	There are two kinds of herpes. Herpes 1 causes cold sores and fever blisters on the mouth but can be spread to the genitals; Herpes 2 is usually on the genitals. Nearly two-thirds of people infected with herpes don't even realize it. An outbreak causes painful blisters or sores on the vagina, penis, buttocks, thighs, or elsewhere. During the first attack, it can also lead to fever, headaches, and a burning sensation while urinating. Symptoms usually appear within two to 20 days of infection but can take longer in some cases. The first outbreak is usually more severe than later recurrences.	<i>Bumps or growths on the penis, scrotum or anus in men, or the outside of the anus or vagina in women may</i> appear two weeks to three months after exposure. Many people however, have no symptoms, but may still be contagious.	Many people don't have symptoms. Others may experience severe fatigue, achiness, nausea and vomiting, loss of appetite, darkening of urine, or abdominal tenderness, usually within one to two months of exposure. Yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes (called jaundice), and darkening of the urine can occur later.
<b>How it's spread.</b>	HIV is spread through vaginal or anal sex with someone infected; through sharing needles or syringes during drug use with someone infected; or very rarely through transfusions of infected blood. Babies born to mothers with HIV might become infected before birth, during birth, or through breastfeeding. Health care workers can be infected after a stick with needles containing HIV infected blood or less frequently, after infected blood comes into contact with a worker's open cuts or splashes into a mucous membrane, e.g. eyes or inside of nose.	By touching an infected area, or having vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse. <b>WARNING:</b> Some people may be contagious even when they don't have symptoms.	Through vaginal or anal intercourse; <i>less commonly through</i> touching or rubbing an infected area.	Through vaginal, oral, and anal sex; <i>less likely</i> through kissing. Also by sharing contaminated needles.
<b>Treatment</b>	A range of treatment possibilities is available for people living with HIV/AIDs. There is no known cure at this time. Research all over the world is being conducted in an attempt to find more effective drugs to target HIV directly and to treat the illnesses that people with AIDs can experience. Strategies are being sought to boost the immune system and to help delay disease progression.	There is no known cure. An antiviral drug can help the pain and itching and also reduce the frequency of recurrent outbreaks.	There is no cure. Warts can be removed through medication or surgery. Even with such treatments, the virus stays in the body and can cause future outbreaks.	Most cases clear up within one to two months without treatment, during which complete abstinence from alcohol is recommended until liver function returns to normal. Some people are contagious for the rest of their lives. A vaccine is now available to prevent this STD.

<b>Consequences</b>	Serious health complications may develop as a result of having an impaired immune system that cannot fight diseases. If a person is unaware he or she is infected that person may unknowingly infect his or her sexual partners. It is possible for people to die because of AIDs-related complications.	Recurrent sores (the virus lives in the nerve roots and keeps coming back), as well as increased risk of HIV infection. May cause complications during pregnancy, possibly causing severe illness, dissabilities, or (in rare cases) death for an infant if there is active infection during childbirth. A cesarean section delivery can reduce this risk.	Increased risk of genital cancer for men and women. Some virus types cause the most common form of cervical cancer in women.	Chronic persistant inflammation of the liver and later cirrhosis or cancer of the liver; plus, 90 percent of babies born to women with HBV will carry the virus unless they are vaccinated within <i>12 hours of birth</i> .
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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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