

Should I be tested?

You should be tested if you have ever been or are currently sexually active. This means vaginal, anal or oral sex, as well as heavy petting. Any sexual activity puts you at risk.

Don't condoms protect me from STD/STIs?

Condoms do not protect against all STD/STIs. Some are spread by skin-to-skin contact in areas not covered by a condom. If you've had oral sex, the germ that causes the STD/STI can be carried in your mouth. In addition, sometimes condoms break, slip or have defects.

How are tests done?

Each STD/STI has its own test. Some tests require a blood sample and others require urine or swabs from the genital area. Yearly pap smears for women are important, but DO NOT test for all STD/STIs.

Can I be tested at this clinic, and how much does it cost?

Free testing for women is offered for the following STD/STIs: Hepatitis B, Herpes, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Trichomoniasis, Bacterial Vaginitis and Yeast. HIV/AIDS testing will be offered in 2007.

Sources:

Medical Institute of Sexual Health, www.medinstitute.org

Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, www3.niaid.nih.gov



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4341 Northview Dr., Bowie, MD, 20716
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www.pregnancyclinic.org

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what are STDs?

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are infections that people generally acquire by engaging in sexual behavior or having sex with someone who already has one. You can get an STD/STI even if the person who gives it to you doesn't have any signs of an infection. Some STD/STIs can be treated and cured with antibiotic medicine. Others cannot be medically cured.

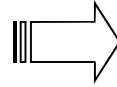
One out of four sexually active people have an STD/STI and most people who get them are under the age of 30. While an STD/STI can be caught after only one time of sexual activity, having several partners increases the risk. You can have more than one STD/STI at a time and sometimes you can get the same STD/STI more than once.

how STDs are spread

- Most often, STD/STIs are spread by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has an STD/STI. Some kinds of STD/STIs can be spread just by close contact like deep kissing or heavy petting, even without having sexual intercourse.
- Sharing body fluids like blood, semen, or vaginal fluids, among others.
- Touching or rubbing infected body parts.
- Sharing needles or using needles that are not sterile.

Common STD/STIs that can be treated and cured:

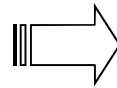
These STD/STIs
are caused
by bacteria.



Chlamydia
Gonorrhea
Syphilis
Trichomoniasis
Vaginal Infections

Common STD/STIs that can be treated but NOT cured:

These STD/STIs
are caused
by a virus.



Genital Herpes
HPV / Genital Warts
Hepatitis B
HIV / AIDS

symptoms of STDs



It is impossible to tell if someone has an STD/STI just by looking at him or her. Many STD/STIs have no symptoms, but can do a lot of damage to your body. Here are some common signs and symptoms of STD/STIs that men and women may notice:

- Burning or pain while urinating (peeing).
- Any discharge from the opening of the penis.
- A change in a woman's normal vaginal discharge or smell.
- Sores, blisters, rashes, bumps, swelling or growths around the penis, vagina, anus or mouth.
- Itching, burning, or pain around the penis, vagina or anus.
- Pain during sex.
- Pain in the lower abdomen.

preventing STDs

The surest way to be protected from STD/STIs is not having vaginal, anal, or oral sex or touching another person's genital areas. Our clinical staff can help you look at your risk factors and give advice for what to do.

STDs left untreated can. . .

- Be painful and make you very sick. A few can even cause death.
- Make it hard for a woman to get pregnant in the future.
- Cause birth defects or other health problems for a newborn baby.
- Make a man unable to father a child.