

Fast Facts

Syphilis

- Sexually transmitted infection
- Caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*
- Bacteria enter the body through minor cuts or abrasions in the skin or mucous membranes during sexual activity
- Can also be passed from mothers to their babies during pregnancy or childbirth (congenital syphilis)
- Develops in stages: primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary
- Stages can overlap and don't always happen in the same order
- Also neurosyphilis

| <i>Symptoms</i> | <i>Treatment</i> | <i>Prevention</i> |
|---|--|--|
| <p>-Vary depending on the stage</p> <p><i>Primary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Small, painless sore (chancre) which can be hard to notice because they may be inside the vagina or rectum <p><i>Secondary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Non-itchy rash that covers your entire body, including the palms of your hands and soles of your feet -Rash may be accompanied by wartlike sores in your mouth or genital region -Hair loss -Muscle aches -Fever -Sore throat -Swollen lymph nodes <p><i>Latent:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No symptoms <p><i>Tertiary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Damage to brain, nerves, eyes, heart, blood vessels, liver, bones, and joints | <p>-When caught in early stages, can be cured</p> <p>-For primary, secondary, or early-stage latent (you've had the infection within the past year), the standard treatment is one injection of penicillin</p> <p>-If you've had the condition for longer than a year, you might need additional doses</p> <p>-If you're allergic to it, your doctor might prescribe a different antibiotic or suggest penicillin desensitization treatments</p> <p>-Follow-up blood tests and exams must be done to make sure that your body is (avoid having sex with any new partners until you've completed treatment and blood tests indicate that the infection is gone)</p> <p>-Get tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)</p> | <p>-Avoid sex or be in a monogamous relationship where both partners aren't infected.</p> <p>-Always use a condom every time you have sex</p> <p>-Avoid recreational drugs because they can inhibit your judgment, leading to unsafe sexual practices</p> <p>-Since people can be infected and not know it, doctors recommend that all pregnant women be screened for syphilis</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p><i>Neurosyphilis:</i> -Damage to the brain, nervous system, and eyes (occurs at any stage)</p> <p><i>Congenital:</i> -No symptoms -Some may have a rash on the palms of their hands and soles of their feet -Later symptoms can include deafness, teeth deformities, and saddle nose (the bridge of the nose collapses)</p> | | |
|--|--|--|

©2021 Demystifying Your Health. All rights reserved.

Demystifying Your Health does not provide medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

Copyrighted Material DemystifyingYourHealth.com