

What is a Sexually Transmitted Infection or Disease?

⇒ STI's & STD's are caused by either a **Bacteria**, **Parasite**, or **Virus**.



⇒ The infection comes first, then the disease, (if the infection is not treated).

⇒ **Viruses** are Incurable but the symptoms are treatable. (i.e.. HPV, HIV, & Genital Herpes)

⇒ 25% of the population has HPV (human papilloma virus)



⇒ **Men having sex with men** are **27 times** more likely to get HIV.

⇒ **Syphilis, Chlamydia & Gonorrhea** are bacterial infections cured by antibiotics.

⇒ With **Gonorrhea** however, **50% of people** are antibiotic resistant.

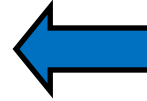
⇒ Chlamydia & Gonorrhea (if left untreated) can cause **Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)** which is an infection of the reproductive system & can result in **infertility**.

How are STI's Spread?

- ⇒ Through pre-cum, semen, & vaginal fluid
- ⇒ Through open cuts, blood, & sores (skin to skin contact)
- ⇒ Correct use of latex condoms reduces risk when used with Anal, Oral and Vaginal sex.
- ⇒ Pulling out during sex will **NOT** protect you from a STI/STD.

Should I get Tested?

- ⇒ **If Sexually Active** **YES!**
- ⇒ **Changing Partners...** **YES!**
- ⇒ By the time a Sexually Active Person is 25, Half may contract a STI/STD. (American Health Association Projection)



Symptoms of STI's/STD's?

- ⇒ Quite often, there are **NO** symptoms... (Asymptomatic)
- ⇒ Bumps, sores, or warts near genital areas and/or mouth
- ⇒ Skin rash, **swelling**, or **redness** near the genital areas
- ⇒ Painful urination and/or discolored bodily fluids (**discharges**)



STI/STD Tests & Treatments

- ◆ **Blood tests** - Blood tests can confirm the diagnosis of **HIV** or later stages of **Syphilis**.



Tests & Treatments

- ◆ **Urine samples**- Some STI's/STD's are confirmed with a urine sample.
- ◆ **Fluid samples** - If you have open genital sores, your doctor may test fluid and samples from the sores to diagnose the type of infection.

Bacterial Infection

- ◆ **Antibiotics** (often in a single dose) can cure many sexually transmitted bacterial and parasitic infections including: gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia and trichomoniasis.

Viral infection

- ◆ Viral infections are managed with ointments and anti-viral medications.



BTW...

- ◇ **Wait to have sex until 7 days after antibiotic treatment, and sores have healed.**
- ◇ *Women should be retested in 3 months due to possibility of reinfection.*

*Pregnancy Resource Center
of Santa Cruz County*

3 locations to serve you!

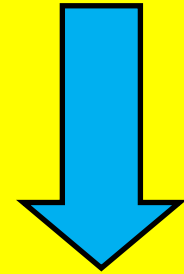
Santa Cruz Clinic
1570 Soquel Drive, Suite 3
Santa Cruz, Ca 95065
(across from Dominican Hospital)
24-Hour Helpline: (831) 475-2200

Downtown Santa Cruz Clinic
138-B Walnut Avenue
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060
(Behind Agnus Dei Book Store)
(831) 454-8481

Watsonville Clinic
55 Brennan St. Rm 201
Watsonville, Ca 95076
(Grace Harbor Women's Center)
(831) 726-0011

www.santacruzprc.org

**The Truth
About STI's & STD's**



**Answers to the
Most Common
Questions**

