

# STIs

## Sexually Transmitted Infections

STIs are infections that are spread by sex (anal, oral and vaginal), and in some cases, by non-penetrative sexual contact (such as sharing sex toys, sexual touching, close skin-to-skin contact).

### CHLAMYDIA

**Symptoms:** No symptoms, pain when weeing, bleeding between periods or after sex  
**Test:** A urine sample or swab  
**Treatment:** Easily treated with antibiotic tablets

### GONORRHOEA

**Symptoms:** No symptoms, discharge from tip of the penis, yellow/green discharge from vagina, bleeding between periods  
**Test:** A urine sample or swab  
**Treatment:** Easily treated with an injection

### SYPHILIS

**Symptoms:** No symptoms, small, painless sore around genitals, rash on palms of hands and soles of feet, swollen glands or a flu-like illness  
**Test:** A blood sample  
**Treatment:** Usually treated by an injection in the bum cheek

### HIV

**Symptoms:** Flu-like illness a few weeks after infection  
**Test:** A fingerprick test or a blood sample, depending where you go for the test  
**Treatment:** There is no cure but HIV can be treated and controlled with antiretroviral drugs. If you're on effective treatment you can expect to lead a normal life and can't pass on HIV to anyone else.

### GENITAL WARTS

**Symptoms:** Lumps, bumps or growths around genital/anal area  
**Test:** Doctor/nurse will look at affected area  
**Treatment:** Treatment is available to get rid of the warts, like using a cream or freezing them off. There is no treatment that cures genital warts, but it's possible for your body to fight the virus over time.

### GENITAL HERPES

**Symptoms:** Blisters, sores around the genital/anal area  
**Test:** Doctor/nurse will look at affected area and run a swab over any sores  
**Treatment:** There is no cure but you can ease symptoms and stop the virus from multiplying with anti-viral tablets.



*Condoms can help to protect against some STIs*

Visit [www.openclinic.org.uk](http://www.openclinic.org.uk) for sexual health service information