

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).

You can have an STI and not know it; some people do not have any symptoms.

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 the 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 the 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 for sexual health service information