

STIs

Sexually Transmitted Infections

- ! STIs are infections that are spread by penetrative sex (anal, oral and vaginal) and by non-penetrative sexual contact (sharing sex toys, close skin-to-skin genital contact).
- ! There are other infections which can be spread by blood-to-blood contact (sharing needles used to inject drugs) and not just through sex or sexual contact.
- ! You can have an STI or other infection and not know it. Some people do not have any symptoms.

CHLAMYDIA

Symptoms: No symptoms, pain when weeing, discharge, bleeding between periods or after sex

Test: A urine sample or swab

Treatment: Easily treated with antibiotic tablets

GONORRHOEA

Symptoms: No symptoms, discharge, bleeding between periods

Test: A urine sample or swab

Treatment: Easily treated with an injection

SYPHILIS

Symptoms: No symptoms, sore on genitals, rash on palms of hands and soles of feet

Test: A blood sample

Treatment: Usually treated by an injection in each bum cheek

HIV

Symptoms: Often no symptoms, possible to have 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.

HEPATITIS B

Symptoms: Often no symptoms, in early infection possible to have high temperature, tiredness, raised and itchy skin (hives), abdominal pains, feeling or being sick, yellowing of skin (jaundice)

Test: Blood sample

Treatment: Chronic Hepatitis B may be treated with antiviral medicine.

HEPATITIS C

Symptoms: No symptoms, high temperature, tiredness, loss of appetite, abdominal pains, feeling or being sick

Test: Blood sample

Treatment: Treated with antiviral medicine for several weeks



Condoms can help to protect against some STIs

Visit www.openclinic.org.uk for sexual health service information