



Most Common Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

	ORGANISMS	INCUBATION TIME	SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS	COMMON TREATMENTS
PARASITES:	Lice/Scabies	Immediate to 30 days	Itching and scratching	Skin infection	Local insecticides
	Trichomoniasis	3-30 days. May survive 1-3 hrs. outside body.	Discharge, itching	Bladder and prostate inflammation; Fallopian tube damage; Increases risk of HIV and other STD infection**	Antibiotics
BACTERIA:	Chlamydia	1-5 weeks Almost all sexual contacts become infected.	Odorless thick discharge; often has no symptoms	Can cause P.I.D.; premature birth, stillbirth or infant lung & eye infections, infertility. Increases risk of HIV and other STD infection	Antibiotics can treat the infection, but scars may remain
	Gonorrhea	2-8 days Very contagious, especially during menstruation.	Symptoms often missed. Burning sensation when urinating; may feel frequent need to urinate. Yellow, thick discharge from vagina or penis can produce irritation.	Can cause P.I.D., tubal pregnancy, infertility, chronic pain, bleeding, arthritis. Newborns maybe seriously infected. Increases risk of HIV and other STD infection	Antibiotics can treat most infections, but scars may remain
	Syphilis	10-90 days	Often has no symptoms. Skin ulcers or rash may appear.	Damage to all major organs if left untreated; could lead to death. Facilitates the transmission of HIV infection***	Antibiotics
	Bacterial Vaginosis	5 days to 3 weeks	Vaginal discharge and a slight fishy odor in women; possible mild urethral discharge in men	Premature labor during future pregnancies	A type of antibiotic cream
VIRUSES*:	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) [Genital Warts]	1-3 months	Symptoms often missed. Wart-like growths over infected area	May cause cancer of cervix, throat, penis or other area	Removal of warts. No cure for this virus.
	Herpes (HSV)	2-14 days	Painful blister may last 1-3 weeks and recur again and again	Initial infection may be serious, especially in pregnancy; newborn may be seriously infected	Medication to relieve symptoms only. No cure for virus.
	Hepatitis B (HBV)	1-6 months	Inflammation of liver	May cause cancer of liver and can be fatal	No cure , but vaccine is available to prevent it.
	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)	Up to 10 years	Develops into AIDS; immune system fails to prevent infections	Complications far-reaching and serious; can cause death	No cure. Medication to prolong symptom-free years.

*** These viruses that are sexually transmitted are different from the viruses that cause flu and colds - they can stay in your body for life.**

** Royce, R.A., et.al. (1997). Sexual Transmission of HIV. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 336(15), 1072-1078

*** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1996, September). Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 1995. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 7(2).