

**E**very STI is treated differently: by tablets, injections, creams. Treatment course must be completed, even if symptoms disappear.

**Y**ou should inform your partners about STI. The treatment is successful only when both partners are treated.

**D**uring treatment, it is important to avoid any sex. Remember that if you had STI before, you can get it again.

**I**f you suspect of any contacts with HIV before pregnancy, get a test for HIV.

### What are procedures for test?

**F**or STI test a doctor will take a sample from penis, vagina or cervix uteri, sometimes from the mouth or rectum. If urine test is used, men must not urinate for several hours before the test.

**F**or some STIs (HIV, syphilis, Hepatitis B, C) venous blood is taken.

**I**f one STI is diagnosed, you should also be tested for other STIs, as you can have more than one infection at the same time.

### How to protect against STI?

**A**void any casual sex, have sex only with one trusted and not infected partner.

**R**educe the number of sexual partners.

**R**emember that condom use during sexual intercourse reduces the risk of getting STI. Use condom during all kind of sex (vaginal, anal, oral).

If you want to get a test for STI, do not hesitate to visit your family doctor, gynaecologist or dermatovenerologist



**Why is it necessary to get a test for STI?**

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## Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

Sexually transmitted infections are transmitted during sex (vaginal, anal and oral). For long time they have been called venereal diseases (Venus a Roman goddess of love and beauty).

Most STIs (syphilis, gonorrhoea, Chlamydia, etc.) are curable.

Some STIs, if not treated, can cause negative effect on health such as infertility.

Some STIs are not curable (Herpes infection, genital warts, HIV).

Genital warts and Herpes infection are dangerous, because of a tendency to repeat.

Syphilis, Hepatitis B virus, Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, Herpes and HIV can be transmitted to a child during pregnancy, delivery or breast feeding.

### Sexual intercourse:

- 1) vaginal (penis in vagina),
- 2) anal (penis in rectum),
- 3) oral (penis in the mouth).

## How do you get STI?

You can get STI when having sex with an infected person if a condom is not used.

You can get HIV and Hepatitis B virus with a blood or genital discharge of infected person, if non-sterile injecting equipment is used, also tattoo making.

The risk of transmission is high when having sex with a person who has a big number of sexual partners and does not always use a condom.

Condom use during all kinds of sex is recommended to decrease a risk of transmission.

## What are the symptoms of STI?

The symptoms do not always appear straight after transmission; sometimes it takes several weeks or months. In some cases the symptoms and signs of infection may not appear at all. Infected women do not often feel any symptoms. But there is a possibility to pass the infection to a sexual partner even if there are no symptoms.

## Common symptoms are:

1. Urogenital discharge (an increase of urogenital discharge in women). The colour of discharge varies from yellow to clear
2. Painful and rapid passing urine
3. White scurf in vagina, penis and mouth
4. Rashes in the area of genitalia
5. Increased lymphatic nodes of groin
6. Pain in the testicles, abdomen
7. Bleeding during sexual intercourse
8. Pain and/or lesion in rectum
9. Joint pain.

## Do I need to get any test?

If you think you had a contact with STI or have some symptoms of STI, you should visit your family doctor.

You should not treat STI by your self, go entirely by what the doctor says. Some STIs can lead to long-term problems if they are left untreated.

All pregnant women are recommended to have a test for HIV, syphilis and other STIs. The risk of transmission to a child disappears if STI are treated.