

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by *Treponema pallidum* bacteria.

SYPHILIS



TRANSMISSION

It can be contracted through sex without a condom with an infected person through anal, vaginal or oral sex. Pregnant women can spread the disease to their child.



SYMPTOMS

The symptoms are the same in men and in women. They vary according to the stage of the infection and are not always apparent. The first symptoms usually appear after 2-3 weeks. Syphilis appears in four different phases. The period in which symptoms appear therefore depends on the phase of the infection.

Primary syphilis

Appearance of a non-painful ulcer (chancre) in the part of the body that came into contact with the bacteria (especially the penis, vulva, vagina or anus), usually 2-3 weeks after infection. It may take up to 6 weeks to disappear and, depending on where it is located, may go unnoticed.

Secondary syphilis

It usually occurs 3-6 weeks after the appearance of the chancre. Symptoms include skin rash (palms of hands and soles of the feet), inflammation in the genital area, white spots on the mouth and swollen glands. Even if untreated, the symptoms usually disappear but the infection continues to progress. In this stage, syphilis is highly transmissible through sex.

Latent syphilis

When the symptoms of secondary syphilis have disappeared, perhaps no symptoms will appear for several years even though the infection is present.

Tertiary syphilis

Many years after infection, approximately 1 out of 10 people with untreated syphilis will develop serious neurological, osteoarticular or cardiac problems.



DIAGNOSIS

Syphilis is diagnosed by means of a blood test and, if there are ulcers, samples can also be taken. Fast syphilis tests that detect the presence of antibodies are not useful in diagnosing reinfection.



TREATMENT

The infection is cured with an antibiotic. Treatment does not provide lifetime protection and it is therefore possible to contract the infection again.



PREVENTION

Use of a condom reduces the risk of infection in vaginal, anal or oral sex. If sex toys are shared, a new condom should be used for each person and each sexual practice. Sex should be avoided until the treatment is complete and the symptoms disappear.

gt grupo de trabajo sobre tratamientos del VIH
ENTIDAD DECLARADA DE UTILIDAD PÚBLICA
ONG DE DESARROLLO

SUBVENCIÓN



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OTROS FINES DE INTERÉS SOCIAL



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COLABORA



EQUIPE DE TREBALL SOBRE
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Tel. 93 458 26 41
consultas@gtt-vih.org