

Genital herpes is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2). Herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) –which usually affects the lips and nearby areas– can sometimes affect the genital and anogenital area.

GENITAL HERPES



01 TRANSMISSION

It can be contracted through sex without a condom with an infected person through anal, vaginal or oral sex or by close contact with the genitals of an infected person. It can also be transmitted through skin-mucous membrane lesions or through discharges in which the virus is present, even if there are no lesions.

Once HSV infection occurs, the virus remains in the body forever and is not eliminated. As the infection is not curable, infected people tend to have periodic outbreaks.

Pregnant women can spread the disease to their child. If genital herpes is acquired during pregnancy, proper treatment should be sought to reduce the risk of transmission.



02 SYMPTOMS

Over 50% of people with genital herpes show either no symptoms or very mild symptoms. When they do appear it is possible that the infection occurred a long time before: weeks, months or even years previously. The most common sign of infection is the appearance of painful vesicles at the point of infection (vulva or vagina, penis, anus, rectum or, very rarely, the mouth). A tingling sensation and itching or painful lesions are also characteristic symptoms. The vesicles eventually break up and discharge fluid. They can scar over to form scabs or produce painful ulcerative lesions that take weeks to heal. After the lesions have healed it is common for symptoms to reappear. This situation is called an outbreak.



03 DIAGNOSIS

It can sometimes be diagnosed by observing the characteristics of the lesions. Samples are typically taken from the vesicles or ulcers and tested in the laboratory.



04 TREATMENT

Genital herpes cannot be cured but some antivirals prevent or decrease the duration of outbreaks and reduce the chances of the virus spreading.



05 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

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA / MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD, SERVICIOS SOCIALES E IGUALDAD
FOR SOLIDARIDAD OTROS FINES DE INTERÉS SOCIAL

MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD, CONSUMO Y BIENESTAR SOCIAL / SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE INNOVACIÓN TECNOLÓGICA / COMISIÓN GENERAL DE SALUD PÚBLICA / AGENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA Y NUTRICIONAL / FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ASOCIACIONES DE PACIENTES

Generalitat de Catalunya / Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya

Generalitat de Catalunya / Departament de Justícia

Ajuntament de Barcelona / ÀREA DE QUALITAT DE VIDA, IGUALTAT I ESPORTS

Diputació Barcelona / ÀREA DE BENESTAR SOCIAL

COLABORA

ETIS / EQUIP DE TREBALL SOBRE IMMIGRACIÓ I SALUT

+

TROPICAL DRASSANES



¿TIENES DUDAS SOBRE EL TEMA? PREGÚNTANOS

Tel. 93 458 26 41
consultas@gtt-vih.org