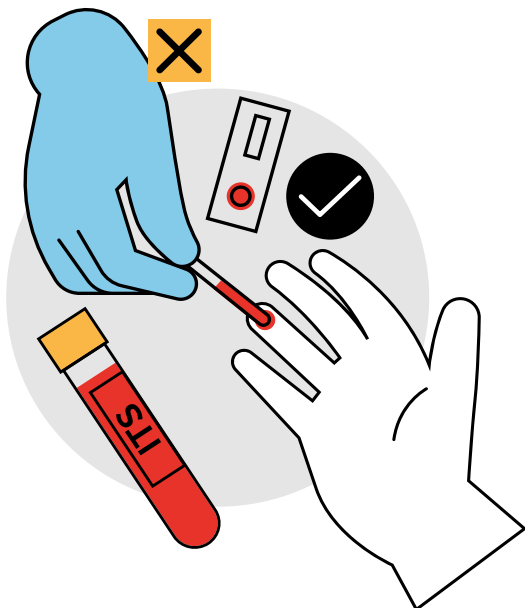


Regular screening for STIs

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are caused mainly by bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites and protozoa, and most are transmitted sexually (including in oral sex). They may, however, also spread via other channels: through blood, for example, or from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding.

STIs do not discriminate by age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, social and economic status or religion. In many cases, moreover, STIs have no symptoms and therefore go unnoticed.

Anyone who is sexually active may therefore be infected by an STI at some point in their life. Regularly screening for STIs (and, if necessary, their treatment) can therefore prevent serious health complications. Early detection and treatment also prevent your sexual partners from catching the disease.



What protection does a condom provide?

If used correctly, condoms provide effective protection against STIs spread via fluids when there is vaginal, anal or oral penetration. These include gonorrhoea, chlamydia, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

Condoms provide partial and that means not 100% effective protection against diseases caused, for example, by human papillomavirus and syphilis. Even if there is no penetration, these can be passed via skin-to-skin, skin-to-mucous membrane, or mucosa-to-mucosa contact.

If you have any queries about the risks of transmission involved in specific sexual practices, please consult our sheet

[Sexual practices, risk of HIV and other STIs'](#) 

Where to get screened for STIs

In Spain there are several options to be screened for STIs:

- 1. STI clinic:** many cities have specific STI centres where you can be fully screened for free. Most of these centres operate on an appointment basis so, if you do have symptoms, you should mention this when making the appointment because some emergency appointments are usually available. To receive care, you are generally not required to show any type of document.
- 2. NGO community centres:** for years now many community organisations have been offering rapid tests for some STIs such as syphilis, HIV and hepatitis.
- 3. Primary healthcare centres:** If you have access to the Spanish National Health System, you can ask your primary healthcare doctor to screen you for STIs via a Specialized STI Care Appointment.
- 4. Hospitals:** if you are receiving HIV treatment, the doctor at the infectious diseases unit can request STI screening at one of your check-ups.
- 5. Private medical centres:** there is always the option of paying for STI screening at a private medical centre in your autonomous community.

If you have an infection, they will offer you the appropriate treatment. Some centres may ask you, whenever possible, to contact your sexual partners so that they may be tested and, if positive, treated too.

Most STIs are curable. Treatment of bacterial STIs (such as chlamydia, lymphogranuloma venereum, gonorrhoea and syphilis) results in complete elimination of the bacteria from the body.

Even with non-curable STIs (HIV, herpes simplex and human papillomavirus), early detection (and early onset of treatment in each case) can prevent later health complications and help to stop them from spreading.

Remember that with HIV, undetectable means that the virus cannot be passed on.

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

¿TIENES DUDAS SOBRE EL TEMA? PREGÚNTANOS
Tel. 93 458 26 41

Descargo de responsabilidad
La información contenida en esta ficha no pretende sustituir la recibida por el médico. Las decisiones referentes a la salud siempre deberían tomarse tras consultar con los profesionales sanitarios. La información médica puede quedar desactualizada con rapidez.
Si te surge alguna pregunta tras leer esta ficha, te aconsejamos hablar con tu médico o enfermera o llamar a gTt-VIH, al 93 458 26 41, para comprobar si existe alguna novedad relevante al respecto.

www.gtt-vih.org

SI TE HA PARECIDO ÚTIL E INTERESANTE EL CONTENIDO, COMPÁRTELO.

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