

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)



- Sexually transmitted infections (or STIs):
 - A group of infections
 - Passed from person to person
 - By sexual contact
 - Some also spread from mother to child during pregnancy or childbirth.



INTRODUCTION

- Widespread around the world, STIs are particularly common among people in their teens and early twenties (youth).
- STIs range in severity from pubic lice, which usually cause only discomfort, to AIDS, which has caused millions of deaths in a worldwide pandemic.



INTRODUCTION

- Most STIs primarily affect only the sexual organs and other parts of the reproductive system
 - Chlamydia (kla-MID-i-a)
 - gonorrhea (gon-o-REE-a)
 - genital herpes
 - genital warts
 - trichomoniasis (trik-o-mo-NY-a-sis).



Routes of Transmission

Sexual intercourse between people is the main route of transmission

- Vaginal sex
- Anal sex
- Oral sex

Mother to baby, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding



SYPHILIS

- Cause: Bacteria
- Symptoms: Sometimes none , red sore on genital
- Signs: painless ulcer (Very infectious), swollen glands
- Complications: Heart, nerve, bone, brain
- Damage to skin, eyes, teeth of the new born



SYPHILIS



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SYPHILIS



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Affected eyes of the new born (NB)



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HERPES

- Symptoms: Tingling, burning sensation on vagina , penis, mouth
- Signs: small painful boils, ulcers on mouth and genitals,
- Complications: reoccurs often on genitals and other parts of body, inflammation of brain



HERPES



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HERPES



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HERPES



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HPV/Genital Warts

- Cause: Human Papilloma Virus
- Symptoms: Soft bumps on penis and vagina/does not disappear
- Signs: Small cluster of soft moist sometimes pink bumps that resemble cauliflower
- Complications: Women; PID, Sterility
Cervical cancer



GENITAL WARTS



GENITAL WARTS



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GENITAL WARTS



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Gonorrhoea

- Cause: Bacteria
- Symptom: Sometimes none ,rushing and going to the toilet often, heavy periods, urethra discomfort, sore throat
- Signs: greenish discharge, red swollen penis or vagina
- Complications: Inflammation of testis, erection problems, PID, blindness in new born



Gonorrhoea



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Chlamydia

- Cause:** Bacteria Chlamydia trachomatis
- **Symptoms:** Sometimes none, discomfort in urinating, belly and back pain , vaginal discharge
 - **Signs:** Clear to purulent discharge, red vagina, frequent urinating
 - **Complications:** Women cannot have children



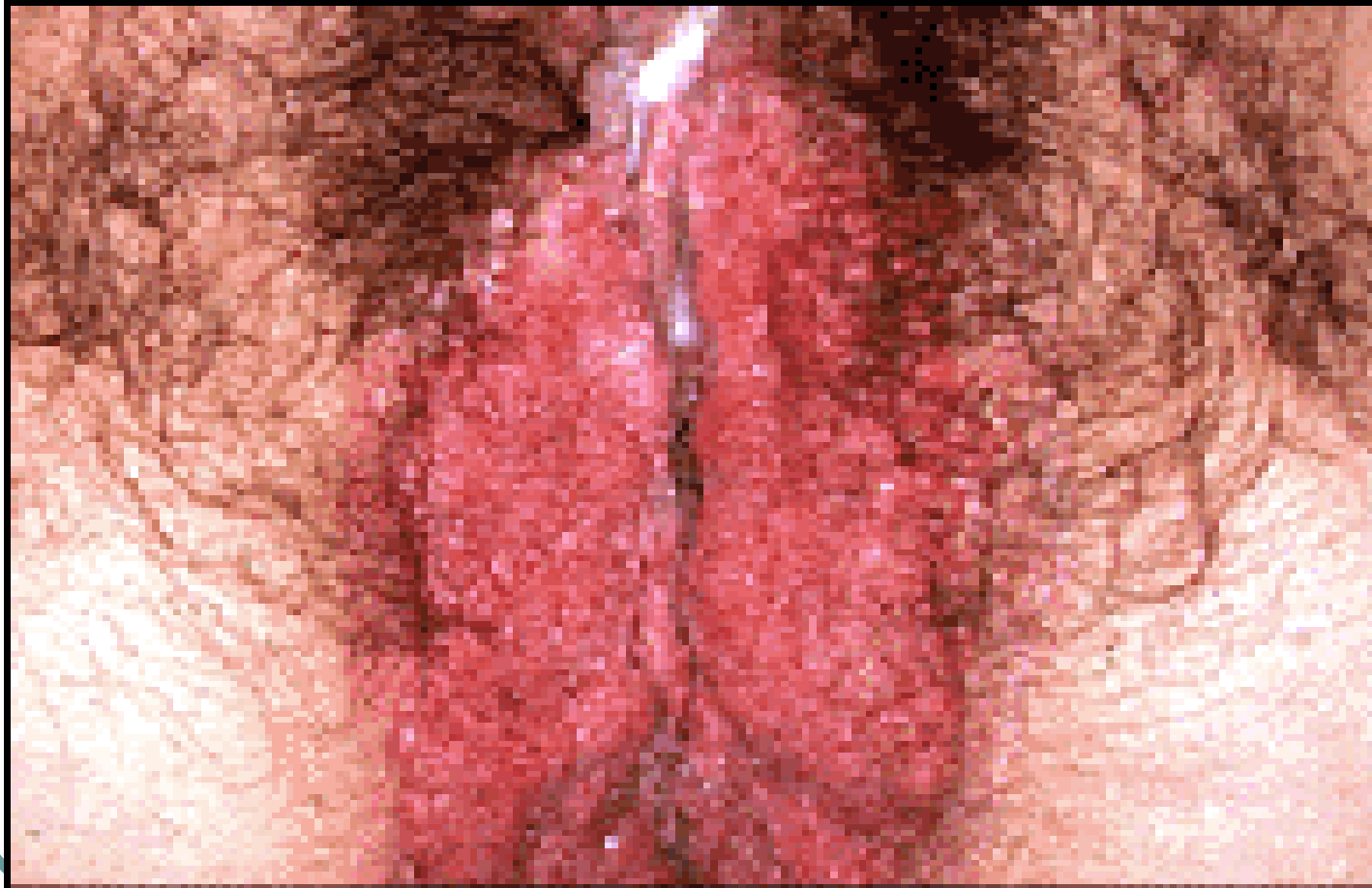
Chlamydia



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Chlamydia



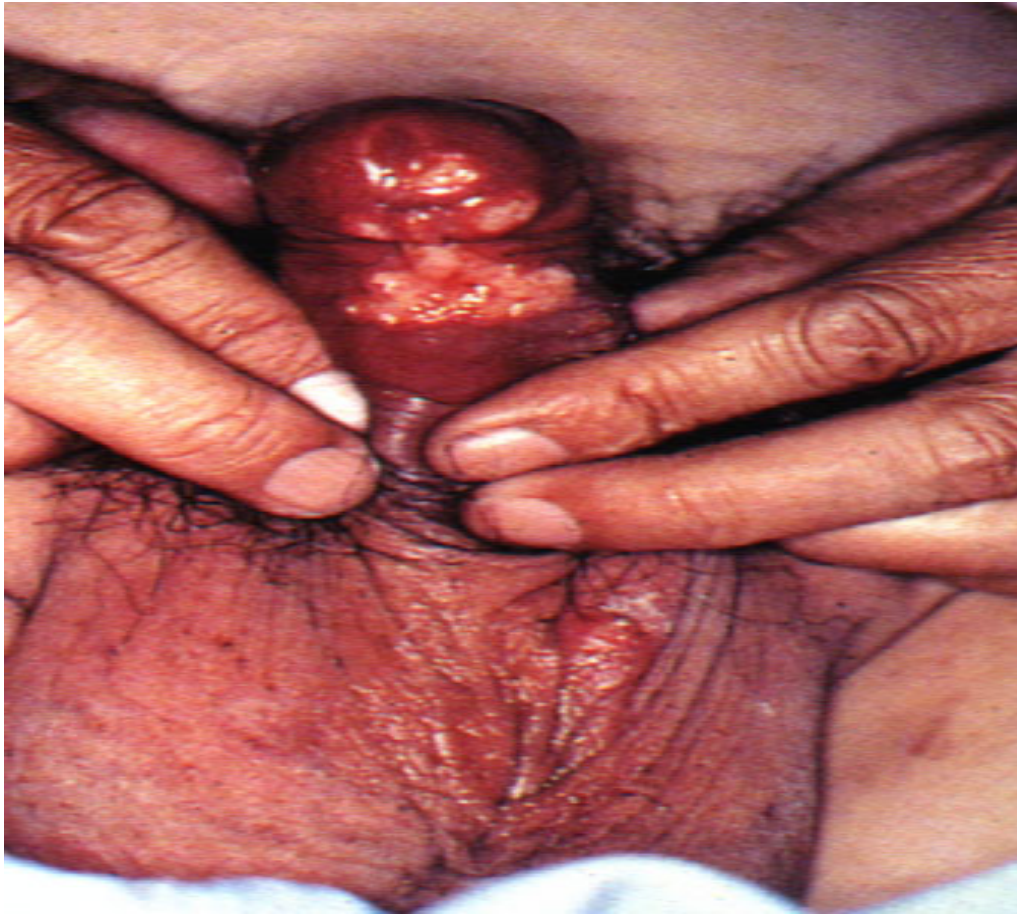
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Chancroid

- Cause:** Bacteria
- **Symptoms:** Painful bumps, close together
 - **Signs:** Painful ulcer with purulent abscess or pus (BUBO)
 - **Complication:** Ring around penis



Chancroid



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Chancroid

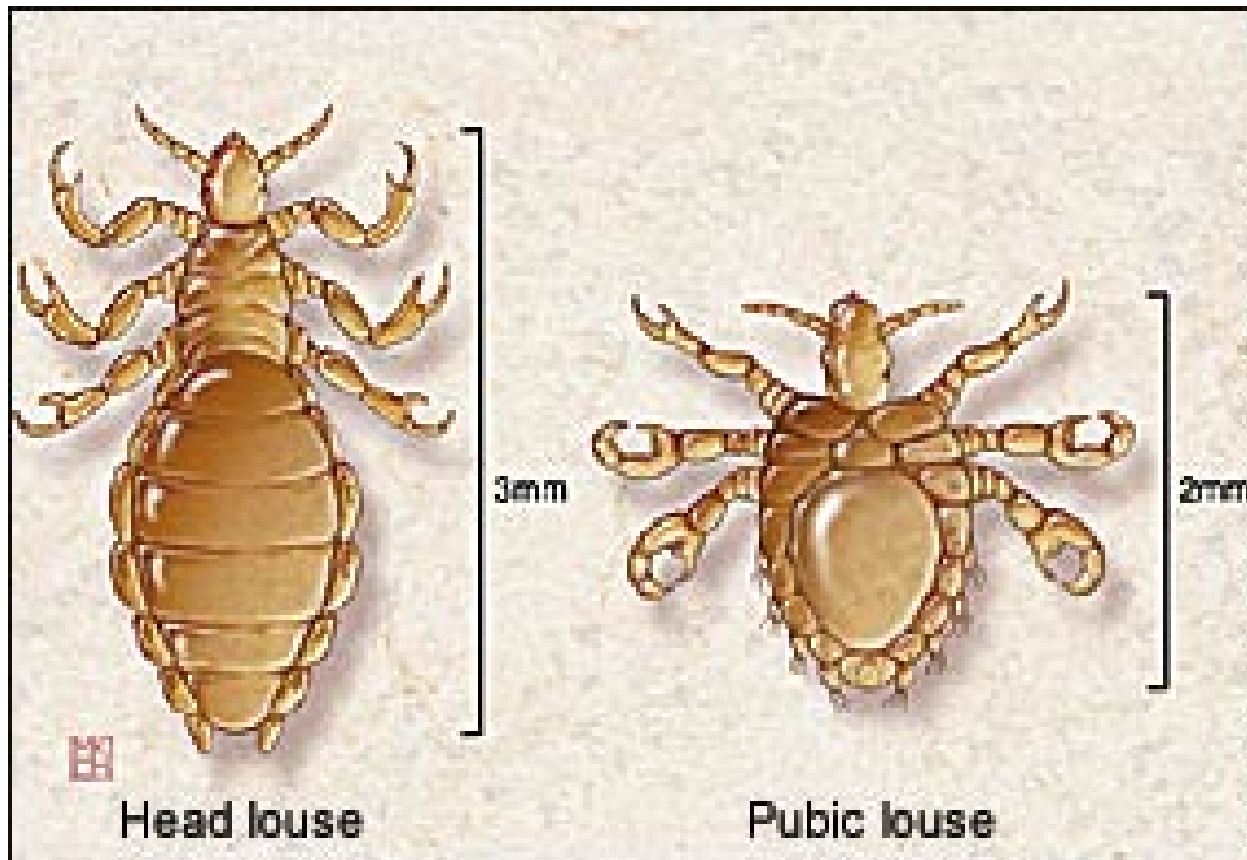


PUBIC LICE (CRABS)

- Cause:** Itch mite
- **Symptoms:** Intense itching, grey lines on skin
 - **Signs;** Pin head blood spots on underwear, nits in hair
 - **Complications:** Secondary infections as a result of scratching



PUBIC LICE (CRABS)



Head louse

3mm



2mm

Pubic louse

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CRABS



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CRABS



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Who is at risk?

- Anyone who has sexual contact with another person
- Young people aged 15-24, who are not married and may move from partner
- Young people who are embarrassed, short of money or worried about privacy to get prompt medical treatment for STIs



Prevention

- Abstain from sexual activity
- BE FAITHFUL, have sex with one faithful partner
- Condoms can provide almost 100% protection against many STIs
- Remember there are still many STIs that only require skin-to-skin contact for infection to occur
- Oral sex is considered safe sex by some persons **BUT** HIV, herpes, gonorrhoea, syphilis and hepatitis can be contracted orally.



Prevention

Remember that antibiotics or other medications do not work on everything anymore. Once you contract a virus you are stuck with it for life



METHODS OF PROTECTING YOURSELF

- Always use condoms made of latex or polyurethane.



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PROTECTING YOURSELF

- Dental Dams for oral sex



PROTECTING YOURSELF

- Include getting tested for STI as a part of your regular medical check-up
- Educate yourself (empowerment); Learn the common symptoms of STIs
- Do not use drugs or alcohol in potentially risky intimate situations. Both inhibit your ability to make good decisions (make good choices)



- If you or your partner has an STI, get tested and get treated at once.
- If you have an STI, do not have sex until your treatment is complete, and your partners have been tested and treated if necessary.



Summary

- STIs are transmitted through body contact during sex
- They are caused by viruses, bacteria and parasites
- Some STIs are easier to transmit than others
- Using a condom can protect you from becoming infected



SUMMARY (Contd.)

- Many STIs have very few or no symptoms so it is not easy to know if you or your partner are infected
- If caught early enough many STIs such as gonorrhoea and chlamydia can be easily treated and cured
- HIV and some other STIs cannot be vaccinated against or cured



SUMMARY (Contd.)

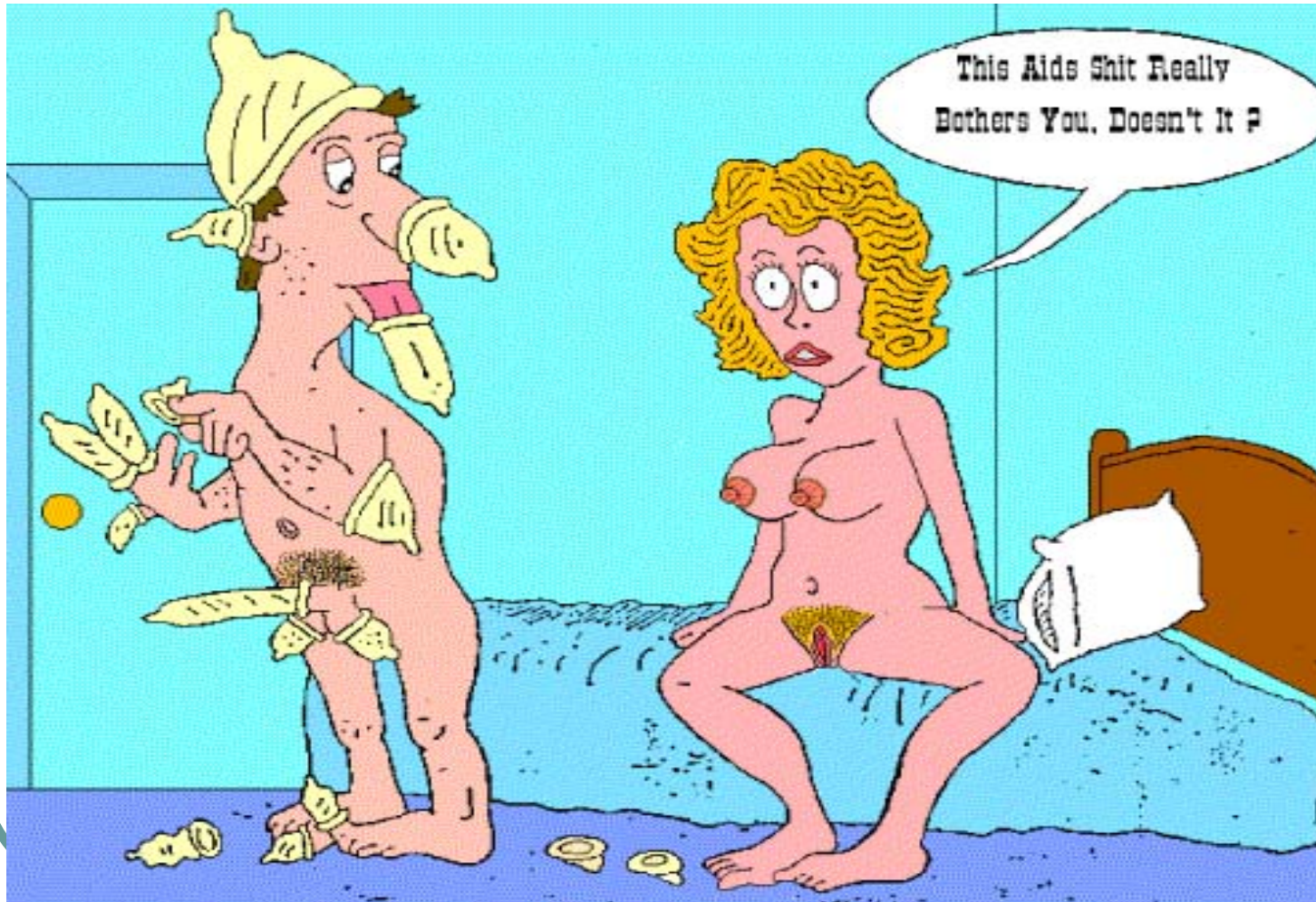
- If STIs are not treated they can lead to serious health problems even death
- You are more likely to become infected with HIV if you are already infected with a STI
- If you are concerned about having an STI; do not hesitate, visit a health facility



THANK YOU



PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE



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