



Syphilis is one of the most common infections among men who have sex with men (MSM).

Syphilis is a bacterial infection.

Syphilis is often diagnosed by a blood test, and sometimes from a swab sample taken from a syphilis ulcer.

Get a free check-up at GMHS STI Clinic or your nearest STI Clinic.

Syphilis can be treated and cured with specific antibiotics.

{Following treatment for syphilis, you can be re-infected if you are exposed to that STI again}.

Syphilis Symptoms

- You can have Syphilis and not have any symptoms.
- Symptoms of Syphilis might show between 10 and 90 days after a sexual contact, such as:

Stage 1: a small painless sore (lasting 3 to 6 weeks) in around the groin area, on the penis, inside or around the anus (or vagina) or inside or around the mouth. (or anywhere that there has been contact).

Stage 2: a rash anywhere on the body, most often hands and soles of the feet. Some people get a fever, headache, hair loss, visual problems or muscle aches.

Stage 3: no symptoms. However without treatment you will continue to have syphilis. Left untreated it can severely affect your health and damage your eyes, liver, bones, heart, brain & nervous system. It can be fatal.

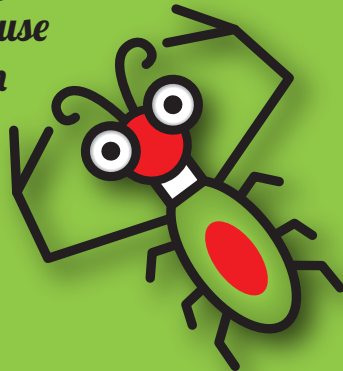
These symptoms can be associated with other STIs or infections.

Syphilis stage 1 and 2 is highly infectious.

You can get it through:

- Direct contact with a syphilis sore.
- Unprotected sex: oral, anal or vaginal. {Note: ejaculation does not have to happen}.
- Close genital contact.
- Rimming or sharing fingers or sex toys.
- It can be passed from mother to baby during childbirth.

Untreated Syphilis can sometimes cause serious health problems.



Syphilis transmission may be prevented by safer sex practices.

- Use condoms for anal and vaginal sex
- Use condoms or dental dams for oral sex
- Do not share sex toys or fingers

The best way to prevent Syphilis transmission is to get tested, and treated if required, particularly if starting a relationship where one or both of you were previously sexually active.

If you are sexually active go for a regular STI check-up.

Having Syphilis, or any other STI, can increase the chances of acquiring or transmitting HIV infection.

Free tests for Syphilis and other STIs are available at:



GMHS STI Clinic

Baggot St. Hospital, Dublin 4. www.gmhs.ie
Walk-in Tues & Weds - Open 5pm to 6.30pm
Tel: 01 6699 553 SMS 087 9410 934

Your nearest STI/GUM clinic

See www.Man2Man.ie for a list.

The test for Syphilis is usually a blood test but can include a swab from a sore.

www.Man2Man.ie

For more information on STIs and HIV in Arabic, English, French, Irish, Mandarin, Portuguese, Polish, Spanish, and Russian.

Sexual Health Information and Support

Gay Switchboard Ireland 01 872 1055 (seven days a week)
Email: ask@ghn.ie



Design: www.Creationpod.ie