Bacterial STI’s
MYTHS OR FACTS OF STI’s
True or False

1. Most people with an STI experience painful symptoms.
2. Abstinence is the best way to prevent STIs.
3. If you get an STI once, and are treated, you can’t get it again.
4. Over 95% of all STI’s are contracted through sexual intercourse.
What are STI’s?

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI’s) are diseases and infections which are capable of being spread from person to person through:

- Sexual intercourse
- Oral, anal, genital, or digital contact
- IV drug use/blood to blood contact

There are two categories of STI’s:
- **BACTERIAL** (Can be cured if caught early enough)
- **VIRAL** (Have NO cure...yet, but are controllable)
Consequences of Contracting an STI

- Some are incurable.
- Some cause cancer.
- Some cause complications that affect the ability to reproduce.
- Some can be passed from an infected female to her child before, during or after birth.
Abstinence

Abstinence is the **BEST** way to prevent exposure to an STI. Abstinence is:

- The deliberate decision to avoid harmful behaviors, including sexual activity before marriage and the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or other harmful activities.
Chlamydia
Chlamydia

It is known as the silent epidemic because it often produces NO symptoms. It can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), a potentially fatal condition in women.

- **TYPE:** Bacterial
- **Occurrence:** One of the most common STDs in the United States, with over 2 million new cases each year.
- **Early symptoms,** if they occur, will usually do so within 3 weeks of exposure.
Chlamydia Symptoms

Women: 80% of women have no symptoms until serious complications occur. Early symptoms include:

- unusual vaginal discharge
- a burning sensation with urination
- unusual vaginal bleeding

Men: 50% of men show no symptoms. The most common include:

- unusual discharge from the penis
- a burning sensation on urination
- itching and burning around the urethral opening
- pain and swelling of the testicles
- a low-grade fever
Chlamydia Complications

Chlamydia May Increase a Woman's Risk of Cervical Cancer

- It is a common cause of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and fallopian tube scarring which subsequently can lead to infertility and ectopic pregnancies.

- Infants of infected mothers can develop dangerous eye infections during birth, if left untreated.
Chlamydia Treatments

- **Treatment:** Antibiotics

**Other Information**

- 48% of all cases are reported in teens 15 to 19 years old.
Gonorrhea
Gonorrhea
Also known as “Drip” or “The Clap”

- **Type:** Bacterial
- **Occurrence:** Now the most common STD in America.
- There are over 5 million *new* cases a year in the United States.
- If symptoms appear, they will usually do so within 2-21 days after exposure.
Gonorrhea Symptoms

- Anyone:
  - Sore or red throat
  - Rectal pain
  - Blood and pus in bowel movements

- Men:
  - A watery discharge from the penis, which can become a thick yellow/green discharge
  - Itching or burning at the urethral opening
  - Pain with urination

- Women: 80% of infected women will notice no symptoms; among those that do:
  - Thick yellow or white vaginal discharge
  - Burning sensation with urination
  - Unusual lower abdominal pain
Gonorrhea Complications

- Causes damage to the reproductive system of both men and women, frequently leading to infertility.
- Most common in the genital area, but can also infect the eyes, throat, and rectum.
- If left untreated it can cause a form of blood poisoning that can lead to arthritis, skin problems and heart and brain infections.
- Babies born to infected mothers can develop blindness due to infection of the eyes during birth (hence the requirement of most states that infants' eyes be treated with antibiotics after birth).
Gonorrhea Treatments

- **Treatment:** Antibiotics

**Other Information**

- Highest rates of gonorrhea infection are found in females from 15 to 19 and in males from 20 to 24 years old.
Syphilis
Syphilis

- **Type:** Bacterial
- **Occurrence:** Over 150,000 new cases a year in the United States.
- **Symptoms will occur 1-12 weeks after exposure.**
- **Symptoms of secondary syphilis will appear about 6 weeks after the chancre has disappeared.**
- **The secondary symptoms will disappear within 2-6 weeks, beginning the latency stage.**
- **Tertiary symptoms appear years after the initial infection.**
Syphilis Symptoms

- **Primary Syphilis**: A small, painless, red bump at the site of infection, known as a chancre.
- **Secondary Syphilis**: Flu-like symptoms and a rash that resembles measles but doesn’t itch or hurt.
- **Latency**: No symptoms for years.
- **Tertiary Syphilis**: Large ulcers devastate the muscles, mouth, liver, lungs, eyes, heart, brain, and spinal cord.
- **Congenital Syphilis**: The infant is born with brain damage, blindness, deafness, and/or deformities of the bones and teeth.
Syphilis Complications

- If untreated, syphilis can eventually lead to brain damage, psychosis (mental disease), heart disease, organ damage, paralysis, blindness and death.
- In pregnant women, it can lead to miscarriage as well as severe birth defects.
Syphilis Treatments

- **Treatment:** Antibiotics

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**Other Information**

- It has often been called “The Great Imitator” because so many of the signs and symptoms are indistinguishable from those of other diseases.
Pubic Lice
Pubic Lice or Crabs (Scabies)

- **Type**: Parasitic

- Crab lice are small, light brown, flat insects that cling to the pubic hairs, suck blood for nourishment, and fix their eggs (nits) to the pubic hairs.

- The blood sucking may cause little red sores and itching.

- Crab lice are almost always spread by close physical contact. They prefer the pubic hair and do not voluntarily leave the body.
Crabs Symptoms/Complications

- Although some people infected with pubic lice have no symptoms, others may experience considerable itching around the genitals.
- You may see light-brown insects the size of a pinhead moving on the skin or oval eggs attached to your body hair.
- The main symptom of scabies is itching, especially at night. A rash may appear in the folds of skin between the fingers or on the wrists, elbows, abdomen, or genitals.
Crabs Treatments

- The most effective treatments include shampoos and creams. Follow directions carefully.
- The infestation may be stubborn, and you may need to repeat the treatment.
- Avoid close contact with others if you have scabies or pubic lice. Wash clothes and bed linen in hot water, or dry-clean or press them with a very hot iron.