



GENITAL HERPES

WHAT IS GENITAL HERPES?

GENITAL HERPES IS A SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE THAT IS CAUSED BY THE HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS TYPE 2.

WHO GETS GENITAL HERPES?

ANY SEXUALLY ACTIVE PERSON CAN BE INFECTED.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

GENITAL HERPES IS SPREAD THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT. BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS, THEY CAN SPREAD THE ILLNESS TO OTHERS WITHOUT KNOWING.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

SYMPTOMS OF GENITAL HERPES ARE PAIN, TENDERNESS, AND ITCHING IN THE GENITAL AREA, FOLLOWED BY BUMPS AND BLISTERS IN THE GENITAL AREA. FEVER AND HEADACHE CAN OCCUR, ALONG WITH A BURNING SENSATION DURING URINATION. AFTER THE FIRST HERPES INFECTION, THE VIRUS STAYS HIDDEN IN THE BODY WITHOUT CAUSING SYMPTOMS. THE VIRUS THEN REACTIVATES LATER, CAUSING ALL THE USUAL SYMPTOMS TO APPEAR.

HOW SOON DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS USUALLY APPEAR TWO WEEKS AFTER INFECTION.

HOW IS GENITAL HERPES TREATED?

GENITAL HERPES IS TREATED WITH MEDICATION THAT DOES NOT COMPLETELY CURE THE ILLNESS BUT MAKES THE PERSON FEEL BETTER AND SHORTEN THE TIME THAT SYMPTOMS LAST.

HOW LONG CAN AN INFECTED PERSON CARRY THE GERM?

BECAUSE THERE IS NO CURE FOR GENITAL HERPES, ONCE SOMEONE IS INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS, IT STAYS IN THEIR BODY FOREVER. A PERSON WHO HAS NO SYMPTOMS CAN STILL SPREAD IT TO OTHERS.

ARE THERE COMPLICATIONS WITH GENITAL HERPES?

GENITAL HERPES CAN CAUSE DEATH IN BABIES AND SO IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WOMEN AVOID GETTING THE ILLNESS WHEN THEY ARE PREGNANT. IF THE WOMAN HAS ACTIVE GENITAL HERPES AT DELIVERY, A C-SECTION IS PERFORMED.

HOW IS GENITAL HERPES PREVENTED?

BECAUSE GENITAL HERPES IS SPREAD BY SEXUAL CONTACT, THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT THE ILLNESS IS TO PRACTICE SAFE SEX.