



## SYPHILIS

### WHAT IS SYPHILIS?

SYPHILIS IS A BACTERIAL INFECTION THAT IS SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED.

### WHO GETS SYPHILIS?

ANY SEXUALLY ACTIVE PERSON CAN BE INFECTED WITH SYPHILIS.

### HOW IS SYPHILIS SPREAD?

SYPHILIS IS SPREAD BY SEXUAL CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED INDIVIDUAL. CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IS SPREAD FROM MOTHER TO BABY IN THE WOMB.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF SYPHILIS?

THE FIRST OR PRIMARY SIGNS OF SYPHILIS ARE USUALLY PAINLESS SORES THAT APPEAR AT THE SITE OF INITIAL CONTACT, FOLLOWED BY SWOLLEN GLANDS. IN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE ILLNESS, THE MOST COMMON SYMPTOM IS A RASH, WHICH MAY APPEAR ON ANY PART OF THE BODY. OTHER SYMPTOMS MAY OCCUR SUCH AS TIREDNESS, FEVER, SORE THROAT, HEADACHES, AND HOARSENESS, LOSS OF APPETITE, PATCHY HAIR LOSS AND SWOLLEN GLANDS. THE THIRD STAGE, CALLED LATE SYPHILIS, MAY INVOLVE ILLNESS IN THE SKIN, BONES, CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND HEART.

### HOW SOON DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS CAN APPEAR FROM 10 TO 90 DAYS AFTER A PERSON BECOMES INFECTED, BUT USUALLY WITHIN THREE TO FOUR WEEKS.

### WHEN AND FOR HOW LONG IS A PERSON ABLE TO SPREAD SYPHILIS?

SYPHILIS CAN BE SPREAD FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO TWO YEARS AFTER INFECTION AND POSSIBLY LONGER.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR SYPHILIS?

SYPHILIS IS TREATED WITH MEDICATION THAT DEPENDS ON THE STAGE OF SYPHILIS THE PATIENT IS IN.

### WHAT ARE THE COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH SYPHILIS?

UNTREATED SYPHILIS CAN LEAD TO THE BREAKDOWN OF SOFT TISSUE AND BONE, HEART FAILURE, BLINDNESS AND A VARIETY OF OTHER CONDITIONS. FEMALES WITH UNTREATED SYPHILIS MAY TRANSMIT THE DISEASE TO HER UNBORN CHILD, WHICH MAY CAUSE DEATH OR DEFORMITY OF THE CHILD.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF SYPHILIS?

LIMITING THE NUMBER OF SEX PARTNERS AND USING A MALE OR FEMALE CONDOM CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF SYPHILIS.