

**Cosmo's at-a-**  
symptoms; how they're passed

**Glance Guide to STDs** Here, the lowdown on the most common sexually transmitted infections: their  
from one partner to another, tested for, and treated; and the long-term health problems they can cause.

	CHLAMYDIA
HOW IT'S SPREAD	Through contact with semen or vaginal secretions during vaginal or anal intercourse
SYMPTOMS	Most women have none; others may experience unusual discharge or abdominal pain within 1 to 3 weeks of having sex with an infected partner.
TESTING PROCEDURE	Your doctor swabs your cervix during a pelvic exam and sends a sample to a lab.
LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES	Pelvic inflammatory disease (a serious infection of the upper reproductive tract), tubal (ectopic) pregnancy, infertility, and increased risk of HIV infection
TREATMENT	A course of oral antibiotics (taken for seven days or in a single long-acting dose) will cure the infection; both partners must be treated simultaneously.

TRICHOMONIASIS	GONORRHEA	HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV)	GENITAL HERPES	SYPHILIS
Through contact with infected semen or vaginal secretions during vaginal intercourse	Through contact with infected semen or vaginal fluids during vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse	Through vaginal or anal intercourse or by skin-to-skin genital contact	Through skin-to-skin contact with an infected area or during vaginal, oral, or anal sex. It's also possible to contract herpes when blisters aren't present.	Through contact between mouth, genitals, or anus and open sores or through contact with infected blood (it can be transmitted through open-mouth kissing)
Often none. Some women note a foul-smelling, yellow-green vaginal discharge and/or itching or burning 3 to 28 days after being exposed.	Often none. Those who do may experience green or yellow vaginal discharge, abnormal vaginal bleeding, or pelvic pain within 10 days of being infected.	Some strains of HPV can cause warts in and around the vagina and/or anus 2 weeks to 3 months after exposure. Others can cause cervical lesions.	Red bumps in and around the vaginal folds that turn into painful blisters. Symptoms usually appear within 2 to 20 days of infection.	Often none. Some people experience sores on the genitals or mouth about 3 weeks to 90 days after exposure, lasting for 3 to 6 weeks.
Your doctor swabs your cervix during a pelvic exam and sends a sample to a lab.	Your doctor swabs your cervix during a pelvic exam and sends a sample to a lab.	Your doctor will be alerted to the possible presence of cervical lesions if your Pap comes back abnormal; she'll spot warts during an exam.	Your doctor will swab the herpes blister and send a sample to a lab.	Your doctor will do a blood test and send it to a lab for diagnosis.
Lingering trichomoniasis makes becoming infected with HIV more likely. May also cause complications during pregnancy.	Pelvic inflammatory disease (a serious infection of the upper reproductive tract), tubal (ectopic) pregnancy, sterility, increased risk of HIV infection	An increased risk of cervical cancer. Some strains of HPV can cause mutations in the cervical cells that could eventually become cancerous.	Increased risk of HIV infection (the sores can provide an opening for the virus to enter the bloodstream) and potential pregnancy complications	If untreated, about a third of sufferers experience brain damage, heart disease, nerve damage, and other serious health problems.
A course of oral antibiotics taken in a single long-acting dose. Both partners need to be treated simultaneously to prevent reinfection.	A single oral dose of powerful antibiotics. To prevent reinfection, both partners need to be treated at the same time.	Genital warts can be removed through self-applied medication or surgery and are usually either frozen off using cryosurgery or treated with lasers.	The herpes virus can't be cured, but an oral antiviral drug can stave off recurrent flare-ups. During an outbreak, a topical version can help clear up sores.	A course of antibiotics can cure the disease if it's caught early, and both partners must be treated at the same time to prevent reinfection.