

TALKING IS POWER: STIs AND HIV

STIs stand for sexually transmitted infections. They are also known as STDs, which stands for sexually transmitted diseases. STIs or STDs are passed from person-to-person through sexual contact. HIV for example is an STI caused by a virus.

STIs are caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, or protozoa. STIs can sometimes be present without any symptoms. In order to know if you have a STI a health care provider will need to run tests to find the best treatment. Let's explore the different kinds of infections and then talk about how to prevent them.



Text "EMPOWER" to 94449

#talkingispower

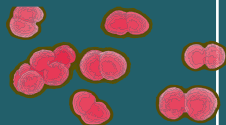
BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

Bacterial infections can be cured with antibiotics. However, finding the infection early is important. Antibiotics may be given as pills, creams, or shots. Some examples of bacterial infections are:

Gonorrhea

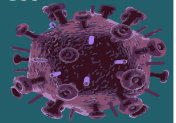
Chlamydia

Syphyllis



VIRAL INFECTIONS

Viruses, like the common cold can't be cured by antibiotics, but finding the infection early is important to help control the infection. Some examples of viral infections are:



Genital herpes

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

PARASITE INFECTIONS

Parasite infections can be cured with antibiotics or medicated shampoos and lotions. Some examples of parasitic infections are:



Pubic lice ("crabs")

Scabies

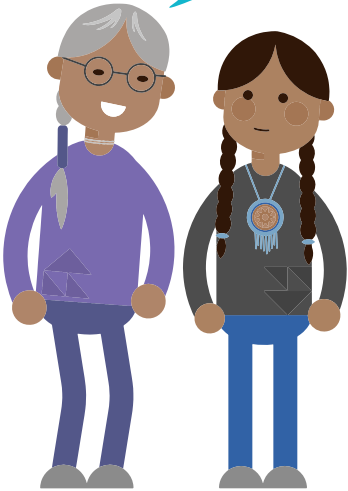
PROTOZOAN INFECTIONS

Protozoan infections can usually be cured with antibiotics or antiprotozoal medications. It is important to get treated even if symptoms go away. An example is :

Trichomoniasis ("trich")



If you have had sex, it's important that you get tested. Finding out early gives you the best chance of curing or controlling the infection. You can also prevent most infections by using a condom every time you have sex and making sure that you and your partner have both been tested before you have sex again.



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