

SYMPTOMS

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the bacterium *Treponema Pallidum*. Syphilis is divided into four stages (primary, secondary, latent and tertiary) and, the symptoms vary according with each stage.

- Primary syphilis generally, has a sore or sores at the original site of the infection. It is common to find the initial sores around the genitals, but you can find it around the mouth, anus or rectum. Most of the sores are round, firm and painless, but in some cases are not.
- Secondary syphilis includes symptoms like rash, swollen lymph nodes and fever.
- Latent Syphilis does not have symptoms.
- Tertiary syphilis is associated with severe medical problems that can affect brain (neurosyphilis), heart (cardiovascular syphilis) and other organs.



TRANSMISSION

Virus Distribution and Spread

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection that can produce serious health problems, if it is not treated. There is not vaccine to prevent this infection.

The infection is commonly spread through sexual activity, by direct contact with the sores. It can be transmitted from mother to the baby during pregnancy or at birth (congenital syphilis). Syphilis can also be transmitted through needle pricks from infected people.

Since the sores and some of the symptoms may disappear, some of the infected people do not treat, and can develop severe complications and even death.

RECOMMENDATION

The best way to prevent the infection is practicing safe sex.

Use condom during any type of sexual contact, and avoid sex, with infected people.

Condom use can reduce the risk of transmission during sex, but it does not eliminate completely the risk as only the area covered by the condom is protected.

Sexually active men, who have homosexual contacts and people with multiple sexual contacts, must be tested at least once in a year.

Only laboratory test, can confirm that you are infected with syphilis.

All pregnant women need to be tested to prevent congenital syphilis.

It is very important to notify your partner, if you have the infection.

Follow-up testing is recommended, to be sure that the treatment was successful.

Syphilis can be cured with the right treatment; antibiotics must be given if you have the infection.

Having syphilis once, does not protect you from the infection again, even after a successful treatment you can still be re-infected.