

Some basic information about STIs and their symptoms
These are the most common STI's but there are others!

Single spot or sore in the genital area or mouth which clears up on its own.
 Rash develops after a few weeks.
 Untreated has major long term complications.

➔ **Syphilis**
 (Not very common)

Usually no symptoms at all. Occasionally white discharge from the penis or vagina, sometimes vaginal bleeding after sex or in between periods. Can be **painful** when passing urine. Sometimes pelvic pain.

➔ **Chlamydia**
 (Common)

Up to a year after infection small lumps on and near the genitals may appear - **uncomfortable** and **itchy**. Commonest cause of cervical and mouth cancers.

➔ **Genital Warts (HPV)**
 (Common)

Yellowish or greenish discharge from the penis or vagina. Often **itching** and/or **burning when passing urine**. Sometimes resistant to antibiotics.

➔ **Gonorrhoea**
 (sometimes called 'the clap')
 (Not very common)

Sometimes a flu-like illness with swollen glands, symptoms go away without treatment but the virus remains. Other general infections may occur.

➔ **HIV/AIDS**
 (Uncommon in UK)

Painful spots around male or female genitals or inside the vagina.

➔ **Genital Herpes**
 (Common)

A **yellowing** (jaundice) of the eyes is often the first symptom.

➔ **Hepatitis B**
 (Uncommon in UK)

Often no symptoms. Soreness, change in discharge. Pain when passing urine.

➔ **Trichomoniasis**
 (Common)

Commoner Sexually Transmitted Infections

Use the information provided on the information worksheet to answer the questions below.

1. Which of the STIs in the list have obvious symptoms soon after sex – symptoms which are easy to notice and would alert someone that they might have caught a disease from having sex?
2. Do the commonest and most serious STIs generally have symptoms to alert you?
3. If you were a Health Professional or councillor, what three pieces of advice would you give to someone who said that they were going away to college to have a good time which including having different boy or girl friends?
i) ii) iii)
4. a. If a person had HIV what sort of symptoms might they experience?
b. Would symptoms be a good indication of infection? Give reasons.
c. When might they discover they were infected?
5. You notice you have itchy small lumps around the genital area.
 - a. What is the likely diagnosis?
 - b. Why is it important to know about this?
6. A friend tells you they had very painful spots around their genital areas, then says, “Thank goodness they’ve cleared up”.
 - a. What STI might they have?
 - b. What would be your advice to them?
7. If someone caught Gonorrhoea are they likely to ignore it?
8. Trichomoniasis often has no symptoms, but typical symptoms are similar to many other STIs. If someone caught Trichomoniasis what might cause them to think they had Chlamydia or Gonorrhoea?
9. Someone you know complains about feeling tired and very run down, they wear sunglasses all the time. When they take them off, the whites of their eyes look slightly yellow.
What would you say to them?
10. a. If someone had a spot on their genital area, it went away, but then they started to get rashes, what STI(s) might they have caught?
b. Would it matter if they did not seek medical help?