

STD 101:

Common Sexually Transmitted Diseases for Black Gay Men

**GET TESTED,
GET TREATED,
GET CURED,
GET THE VACCINES!**

STIs/STDs

Bacterial

- ▶ Gonorrhea
- ▶ Chlamydia
- ▶ Syphilis

Viral

- ▶ Herpes
- ▶ Hepatitis
- ▶ HPV
- ▶ HIV

Gonorrhea (GC)

Disparities: In the United States, what percentage of cases of GC in men occur in black men?

Is it curable?

Bacteria: Gonorrhea (GC)

- ▶ Gonorrhea (sometimes called clap, drip, dose, etc.) is curable
- ▶ A person can easily pass it on to sex partners and mothers can pass it to babies during childbirth
- ▶ Black gay men can have GC in the throat, penis, or rectum
- ▶ Symptoms can develop in 1 to 14 days after infection—often there are NO symptoms

Gonorrhea (GC) Symptoms in Men

- ▶ Discharge from the penis (may be thick, milky white, yellowish, or greenish)
- ▶ Burning on urination
- ▶ Does a person always have symptoms?



Source: CDC/NCHSTP/Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

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Complications of Gonorrhea (GC)

- ▶ Swollen or tender testicles (epididymitis)
- ▶ Infection in the blood stream—disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI)



Source: CDC/NCHSTP/Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

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Gonorrhea (GC)

- ▶ How do you get tested for GC?
 - Urine test
 - Swabs
- ▶ Is the urine test for GC the best option for black gay men?
 - What percentage of GC in black gay men would be missed?
 - Why?

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Chlamydia (CT)

**Disparities: In the United States,
what percentage of cases of CT in
men occur in black men?**

Is it curable?

Chlamydia (CT)

- ▶ A person can pass CT to a sexual partner and mothers can pass it to newborn babies during delivery
- ▶ Caused by a bacteria—curable
- ▶ Symptoms may appear in 2 to 3 weeks
 - Small amount of discharge from penis
 - Burning on urination
- ▶ What percentage of men with CT have no symptoms?

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Complications of Chlamydia (CT)

In women

- ▶ Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
- ▶ Ectopic pregnancy
- ▶ Sterility

In men

- ▶ Swollen and tender testicles (epididymitis)
- ▶ Sterility

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Chlamydia (CT)

- ▶ How do you get tested for CT?
 - Urine test
 - Swabs
- ▶ Is the urine test for CT the best option for black gay men?
 - What percentage of CT would be missed?
 - Why?

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Syphilis

Disparities: In the United States, what percentage of cases of syphilis in men occur in black men?

Is it curable?

What percentage of black gay men who get syphilis already have HIV?

Why?

Syphilis

- ▶ Sometimes called bad blood, pox, lues, or a zipper cut
- ▶ A person can pass it to a sexual partner and mothers can pass it to unborn babies during pregnancy
- ▶ Caused by a bacteria—curable

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Syphilis (continued)

- ▶ First symptom may appear in 10 to 90 days
 - Small sore on penis or anus
 - Rash on body, white spots on mouth, wartlike bumps on genitals
- ▶ Sores come and go for about 6 to 9 months
- ▶ What percentage of men with syphilis have no symptoms?

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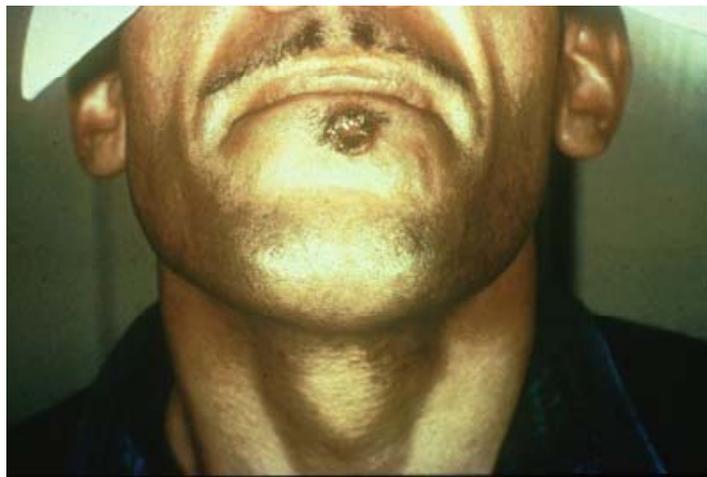
Primary Syphilis Chancre in a Man



Source: CDC/NCHSTP/Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

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Oral Primary Syphilis Chancre



Source: CDC/NCHSTP/Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

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Symptoms of Syphilis Secondary Stage

- ▶ Skin rash lasting 2 to 6 weeks (average of 4 weeks) on the palms of the hands, bottoms of the feet, or any part of the body
- ▶ Rash starts as reddish spots, then becomes raised and scaly
- ▶ Other symptoms may include fever, swollen lymph glands, headache, and hair loss
- ▶ Symptoms will go away without treatment

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Secondary Syphilis Body Rash

On black skin, rash looks like darker brown spots



Source: CDC/NCHSTP/Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

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Secondary Syphilis Face Rash



Source: Cincinnati STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

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Secondary Syphilis Palm Rash



Source: CDC/NCHSTP/Division of STD Prevention, STD Clinical Slides

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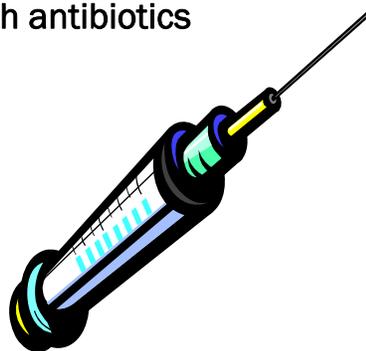
Complications of Untreated Syphilis Late Stage

- ▶ Paralysis
- ▶ Insanity
- ▶ Blindness
- ▶ Damage to knee joints
- ▶ Personality changes
- ▶ Impotency
- ▶ Aneurysm (ballooning of a blood vessel)
- ▶ Tumor on the skin or internal organs
- ▶ Death

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Testing and Treatment for Syphilis

- ▶ Easily detected by a blood test
- ▶ Easily cured with antibiotics



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Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

Herpes

- ▶ **There are two common kinds of herpes**
 - Oral herpes (called a cold sore or fever blister)
 - Genital herpes (on the penis or rectum)
- ▶ **There are two types of herpes virus**
 - Herpes 1 and herpes 2
- ▶ **How can cold sores cause genital herpes?**

Symptoms of Genital Herpes

- ▶ May have some small, painful, blister like sores
 - On the penis, vagina, anus, buttocks, mouth—sometimes on the fingers
 - Sores can last a few days to up to 3 weeks, go away and come back

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Herpes in a Man



Source: Cincinnati STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

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You Can Get Herpes on Skin if There Is a Break



Source: Cincinnati STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

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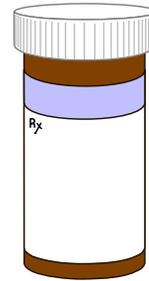
Genital Herpes Without Symptoms

- ▶ Many people with herpes do not have any symptoms or do not recognize that they have symptoms
- ▶ People with herpes can pass the virus to sex partners even when they do not have symptoms—**asymptomatic shedding**

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Testing and Treatment for Genital Herpes

- ▶ Can be detected by
 - Swab of lesion
 - Blood test
- ▶ Herpes cannot be cured, but symptoms can be treated with medicines called antivirals
- ▶ Taking antiviral medicine will reduce the chances of passing to a partner—but not eliminate it!



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Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

- ▶ Many types of HPV that infect the genital area
- ▶ Incubation period unclear
- ▶ A person can easily pass it on to sex partners and a woman can pass it to a baby during delivery
- ▶ Many people clear the infection over time

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Symptoms of Genital HPV Infection

- ▶ HPV causes genital warts
 - Firm bumps on the penis, vagina, anus, or urethra
 - May go away on their own, stay about the same, or get worse
- ▶ Many times a person with HPV has no symptoms

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HPV Penile Warts



Source: Cincinnati STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

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Treatment for HPV

- ▶ Genital warts can be removed
 - Freezing, cauterization, or creams
 - Removing the warts does not get rid of the virus
 - Warts may come back until one's immune system inactivates the virus
- ▶ Major breakthrough—there is a safe and very effective vaccine to prevent HPV and it is now recommended for males!

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Complications of HPV

▶ Anal or rectal cancer

- Pap smears are starting to be used to detect HPV
- Treatment is unclear at this point

▶ Cervical cancer

- Regular Pap smears are best way to detect serious lesions and prevent cervical cancer
- Pap smear screening is recommended for all sexually active women

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Hepatitis A, B, and C

Hepatitis Virus

- ▶ Common types of hepatitis :A, B, and C
- ▶ Infects the liver
- ▶ Hepatitis A: oral/rectal contact
 - Food, some types of sex (rimming)
- ▶ Hepatitis B, C
 - Sex and needle-sharing

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Hepatitis Virus (continued)

- ▶ Hepatitis A
 - One's body will clear this infection after several weeks
- ▶ Hepatitis B and C
 - Often cleared by the body after several weeks
 - A percentage of people can't clear the infection and become chronic carriers

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Complications of Hepatitis B, C

- ▶ If a person becomes a chronic carrier
 - Liver cancer
 - Other liver disease—liver failure

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Treatment for Hepatitis

- ▶ Some treatments for Hepatitis B and C carriers
- ▶ Hepatitis A and B—totally preventable with hepatitis vaccines recommended for all black gay men
- ▶ How many black gay men do you think have received the Hepatitis A and B vaccines?

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Disparities—for the Community

How do high rates of STDs contribute to the high rates of HIV for black gay men?

How can the high rates of STDs for black gay men be reduced?

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