



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are infections passed from one person to another through sexual contact.

STIs can be transmitted through vaginal or anal intercourse, oral sex or rimming (anal licking) when a condom or dental dam is not used.

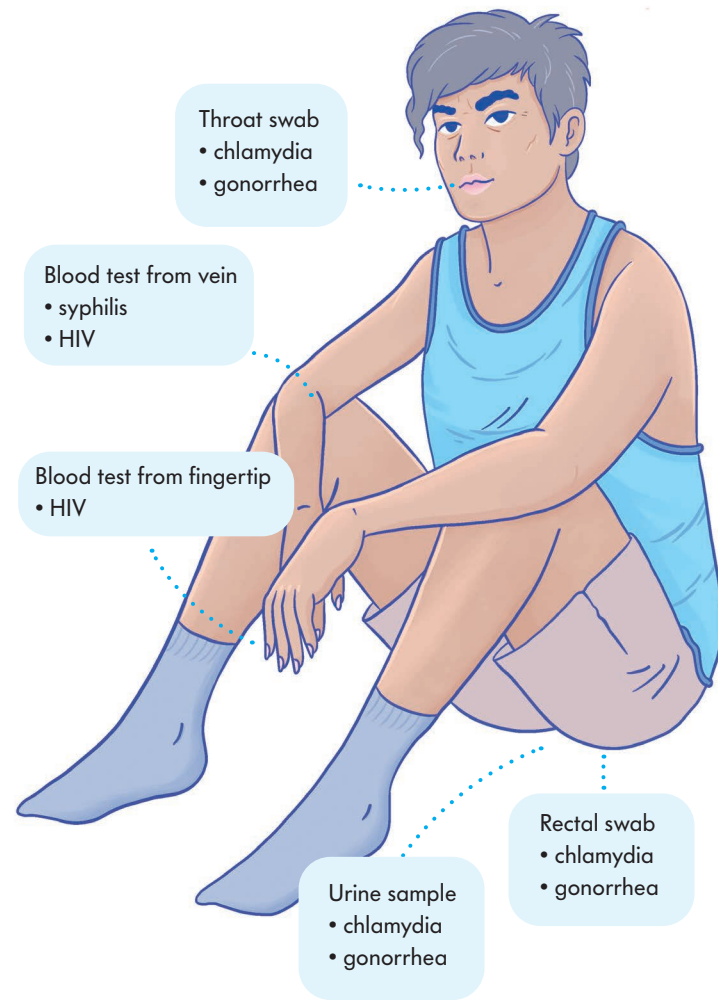
What is good to know about sexually transmitted infections?

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are very common.
- In Finland, an estimated 30,000 people get an STI every year.
- The symptoms of all STIs are treatable.
- Most sexually transmitted infections are also curable.
- Testing and treatment of most STIs is free of charge in public health care in Finland. Only the treatment of herpes and condyloma is not free.

It is common that sexually transmitted infections don't cause any symptoms. If you have had a situation where an STI could have been transmitted, you should get tested.

How can I protect myself from sexually transmitted infections?

- The use of condoms in vaginal or anal intercourse is effective in preventing STIs.
- In anal intercourse, water-based or silicone-based lubricants should be used in addition to condoms.
- In oral sex, you can protect yourself from STIs by using a condom or dental dam.
- Getting regularly tested for STIs is a good way to take care of your own health and prevent new infections.
- PrEP medication is effective in preventing HIV infections.



	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Syphilis	HIV	Condyloma	Herpes
When to get tested?	5 days after unprotected sex	5 days after unprotected sex	3 weeks after unprotected sex A negative test result is reliable after 6 weeks.	3 weeks after unprotected sex A negative test result is reliable after 12 weeks.	When symptoms appear	When symptoms appear
How is it diagnosed?	Urine sample, throat or rectal swab (swab from the mouth, urethra or vagina)	Urine sample, throat or rectal swab (swab from the mouth, urethra or vagina)	Blood test	Blood test	Warts around genitalia, mouth or anus.	Blisters around genitalia, mouth or anus
How is it treated?	Antibiotics taken orally	Usually, treatment is a combination of antibiotic injection and antibiotics taken orally.	Intramuscular injections of antibiotics	Lifelong medication taken orally or treatment with injections	Warts can be treated by applying medication to them, by using freezing therapy or laser.	Antiviral medicine can be used to treat and prevent the symptoms and reduce infectivity.
How is it cured?	Completely cured with medication	Completely cured with medication	Completely cured with medication	There is no treatment that cures it completely. HIV medication keeps the person living with HIV healthy and prevents the transmission of HIV.	There is no treatment that cures it completely. It often cures by itself with time.	There is no treatment that cures it completely. In general, most of the time without symptoms

Where to get tested?

You can get tested for STIs free of charge at your health centre, STI outpatient clinic and student health care.

Hivpoint offers free and anonymous rapid HIV testing.

Do you need more information about STIs?

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It is important that STIs are diagnosed and treated in time to avoid serious health problems.

