# STIs AT A GLANCE

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| Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)                 | Bacteria        | Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI) | • Strong vaginal odour  
  • More vaginal discharge  
  • Vaginal irritation | Not applicable          | Varies                      | Swab                        | Cured with antibiotics      |
| Chlamydia (CT)                           | Bacteria        | Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids | • Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus  
  • Burning when urinating  
  • Often there are no symptoms | 2-3 weeks (but often no symptoms) | Most results accurate after 2 weeks | Urine or swab | Cured with antibiotics |
| Genital Warts/Human Papillomavirus (HPV) | Virus           | Skin-to-skin               | • Painless bumps around genitals or buttocks  
  • Often there are no symptoms | 1 - 8 months       | HPV testing is not available in BC  
  Dpp tests find cell changes caused by some types of HPV | Visual exam | Not applicable |
| Gonorrhea (GC)                           | Bacteria        | Semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids | • Discharge from the vagina, penis or anus  
  • Burning when urinating  
  • Women often do not notice symptoms  
  • Men may notice symptoms when gonorrhea is in the penis, but not when it is in the throat or rectum | 2 - 7 days (but often no symptoms) | Most results accurate after 7 days | Urine or swab | Cured with antibiotics |
| Hepatitis A (HAV)                        | Virus           | Fecal-oral                | • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, fatigue, dark urine, clay-coloured stool  
  • 70% of adults have symptoms | 15 - 50 days (average 4 weeks) | 4 weeks | Blood | No treatment – virus clears from the body  
  Immunization with Hepatitis A vaccine prevents infection. |
| Hepatitis B (HBV)                        | Virus           | Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids | • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, dark urine, clay-coloured stool  
  • 30-50% of adults have symptoms | 45 - 160 days (average 90 days) | 30 - 60 days after infection | Most results accurate after 4 weeks | Blood | Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own immunization with Hepatitis B vaccine prevents infection. |
| Hepatitis C (HCV)                        | Virus           | Blood, body fluids containing blood | • Combination of nausea, loss of appetite, fever, jaundice, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-coloured stool  
  • 20 - 30% of adults have symptoms | 2 - 26 weeks (average 6 - 7 weeks) | 6 - 10 weeks | Most acute HCV infections will be detectable within 2 weeks | Blood | Virus may stay in the body or clear on its own  
  Treatment can cure about 70% of those treated |
| Herpes simplex virus (HSV)               | Virus           | Skin-to-skin               | • Painful blisters on genitals, mouth and face  
  • 60% of people do not notice symptoms | 2 - 21 days (average 6 days) | Swab from lesion 2 - 12 days (average 6 days) | Blood test: 70% of results accurate after 3 months | Swab, blood | Virus stays in the body  
  Managed with anti-viral medication if needed |
| Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)      | Virus           | Blood, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal fluids, breast milk | • Flu-like illness, swollen lymph nodes, skin rash  
  • Many people do not notice symptoms | 2 - 4 weeks if seroconverting | 95% of tests are accurate after 6 weeks but it can take up to 3 months for final result | Blood | Virus stays in the body, but can be managed with medication |
| Molluscum Contagiosum                    | Virus           | Skin-to-skin               | • Small, firm, painless pink or white bumps on the skin | 1 weeks - 6 months | Not applicable | Visual exam | Sometimes treated with topical medication  
  Cleans from the body with time |
| Pubic lice                               | Parasite        | Close contact, sharing clothes, bedding, towels | • Genital itching  
  • Visible lice in and around pubic hair | 2 days - 3 weeks | Not applicable | Visual exam | Cured with lotion or cream rinse applied to the skin  
  Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses |
| Scabies                                  | Parasite        | Skin-to-skin contact, sharing clothes, bedding or towels | • Itchiness (especially at night)  
  • Rash between fingers, on wrists, armpits, genitals, thighs | 3 weeks, though symptoms may begin as soon as 1 - 3 days | Not applicable | Visual exam | Cured with lotion or cream applied to the body below the neck  
  Wash all clothes and bedding in hot water or dry clean; vacuum mattresses |
| Syphilis                                 | Bacteria        | Skin-to-skin contact, fluids from a syphilitic lesion | Many people do not notice symptoms | 3 days - 3 months | 3 - 4 weeks | Blood | Cured with antibiotics |
| Trichomonias                             | Parasite        | Semen, vaginal fluids      | • Vaginal discharge  
  • Painful or burning urination  
  • Painful sex | 4 - 28 days | 4 – 28 days | Swab | Cured with antibiotics |
| Yeast                                    | Fungus          | Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI) | • Genital area is itchy, red, sore and dry  
  • Painful sex  
  • Whitish, thick vaginal discharge | Not applicable | Not applicable | Swab | Treated with creams or oral medication |

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**Summary:**
- **STIs** vary in terms of their transmission, symptoms, and treatments.
- **Bacterial Vaginosis** is commonly caused by normal bacteria and treated with antibiotics.
- **Chlamydia** appears as skin-to-skin discharge and is treated similarly.
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** causes warts and is often treated with creams or oral medication.
- **Hepatitis A** is transmitted through contaminated blood and can be prevented by vaccination.
- **Hepatitis B** and **C** are blood-borne viruses, with **B** potentially leading to long-term infection and **C** often cleared with anti-viral medication.
- **Herpes simplex virus (HSV)** is highly contagious and can persist in the body.
- **Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)** is a long-term condition requiring anti-viral medication.
- **Molluscum Contagiosum** is treated with creams.
- **Pubic lice**, **Scabies**, and **Syphilis** are all managed with topical treatments.
- **Trichomonias** can be cured with antibiotics and **Yeast** infections are treated with creams or oral medication.

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**Additional Information:**
- **Imbalance of normal bacteria (not an STI)** is not listed and likely refers to normal skin flora.
- **Molluscum Contagiosum** treatment also includes **vacuum mattresses**.
- **Syphilis** symptoms may vary, including **rash between fingers, on wrists, armpits, genitals, thighs**.
- **Trichomonias** often present with **painless bumps around genitals or buttocks**.