

When should I test for STIs after sex?

Part 1 in a 3-part series

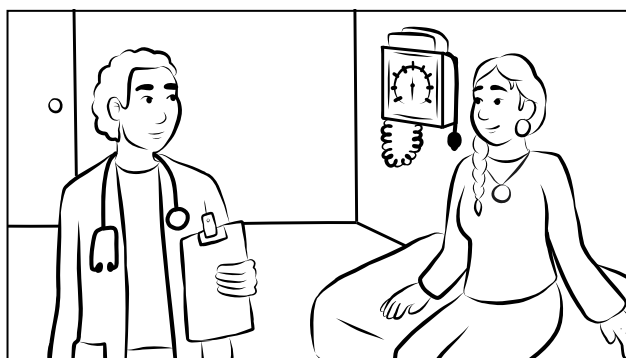
Last night...



"Auntie Sam, you're a nurse. I need your advice. I was with a new guy last night. We didn't use a condom or talk about sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Now I'm worried. Should I go to a clinic right away?"



"I hope you had fun! You can get tested any time, but it takes time before an STI can show up on a test. This is called a 'window period'."



"Go to a clinic if you have symptoms or you notice any changes you're worried about. And go in if you have questions about sex, relationships, or your sexual health."

STI tests you might be given:

Gonorrhea

Chlamydia

HIV

Syphilis

"Otherwise, it takes at least 3 weeks for most STI results to be accurate. You might even need to go back for more tests."



It's a good idea to get tested every 3-12 months if you are sexually active.

"Most people don't have symptoms. This is why regular testing is a good idea. STIs can happen to anyone and they can all be treated or managed."



"You can use protection to help protect your partners until you have your STI results. Testing regularly is a great way to look out for your health, your partners and everyone around you."

Continue to Part 2: Where can I get tested?