

Let's talk about sex

What is Syphilis?

Part 1 of a 3-part series



Chee Mamuk



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority



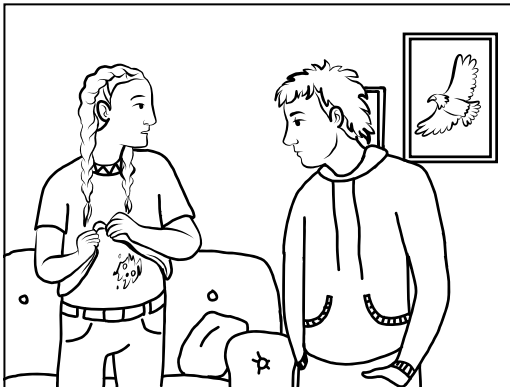
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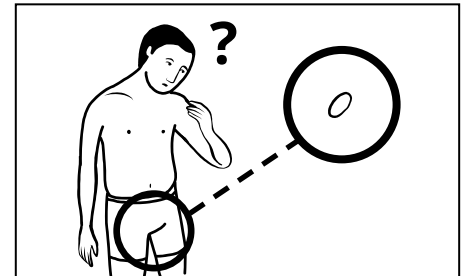
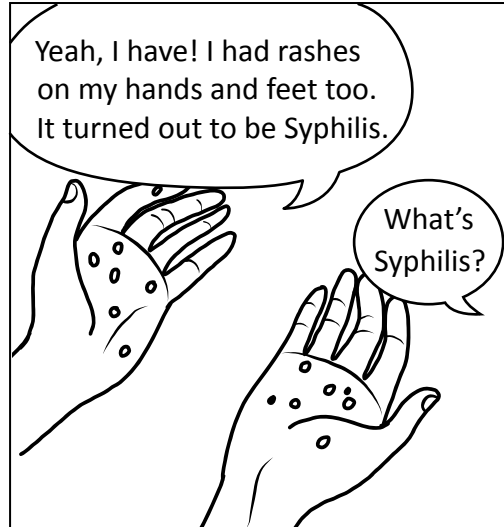
BCAFC | BC Association of
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First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



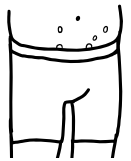
Alex asks Taylor, "Hey, have you ever had rashes on your chest and crotch before?"



"It's a sexually transmitted infection (STI). I found a sore on my crotch and it went away. Others can get it on their lips or in their mouth. **Some people don't have any signs.**"

Active Syphilis:

3 days to 1 year after sexual contact



Sores on the crotch



Fever



Rash



Swollen lymph nodes



Hair loss

"My sore didn't hurt and I didn't think about it until I got rashes. You need to treat Syphilis as soon as you can. It's very contagious. When it's active, you can easily infect others because you can feel fine and not even know you have it."

Inactive Syphilis:

After 1 year



Organs failing



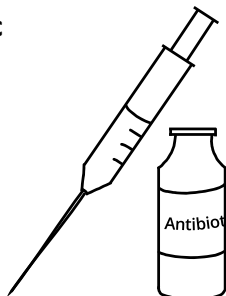
Personality changes



Hearing loss

"Syphilis doesn't go away without treatment. Some people have it for years, and over time, it can cause serious long-term health problems."

Antibiotic



"Don't worry! Go get tested. If you have Syphilis, you caught it early! All you need is a shot of antibiotics to get rid of it. But you can get Syphilis again."



"It would be a good idea to talk about this with people you have sex with. You can get tested every 3-6 months. I ask my partners to do the same. Ask your healthcare provider about testing or learn more at SmartSexResource.com."

| NOVEMBER | | | | | | |
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Illustration: Jess Stanley

Continue to Part 2: How does Syphilis spread?