

Chancroid

(caused by *Haemophilus ducreyi*, a bacteria)

NOTE: Chancroid is rare in the U.S. If you have signs or symptoms of any sexually transmitted disease you should see a health care provider for evaluation and possible treatment.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Painful and draining open sores in the genital area
- Painful, swollen lymph nodes in the groin
- Begin 4-10 days after exposure

TRANSMISSION

Chancroid is spread by:

- Vaginal sex
- Oral sex
- Anal sex
- Skin to skin contact with infected lesion or sores

COMPLICATIONS

If left untreated, chancroid:

- Can spread to sex partners
- Makes it easier to transmit or acquire HIV during sex
- Can cause destruction of foreskin tissue on penis
- Sores can become infected with other germs

PREVENTION

- Avoiding vaginal, oral or anal sex is the best way to prevent STDs.
- Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of chancroid only when the infected areas are covered or protected by the condom.
- Always use latex condoms during vaginal and anal sex.
- Use a latex condom for oral sex on a penis.
- Use a latex barrier (dental dam or condom cut in half) for oral sex on a vagina or anus.
- Limit the number of sex partners.
- Notify sex partners immediately if infected.
- Infected sex partners should be tested and treated.

TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- Chancroid can be cured using medication prescribed by a medical provider.
- Partners should be treated at the same time.

NOTE: A person can be re-infected after treatment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Health
 STD and HIV Section
 (651) 201-5414
www.health.state.mn.us/std

Minnesota Family Planning and STD Hotline
 1-800-783-2287 Voice/TTY; (651) 645-9360 (Metro)
www.sexualhealthmn.org

American Social Health Association (ASHA)
www.ashastd.org

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
 1-800-CDC-INFO; 1-888-232-6348 TTY
www.cdc.gov/std

