

Genital Herpes



An Easy Read Booklet

What is Genital Herpes

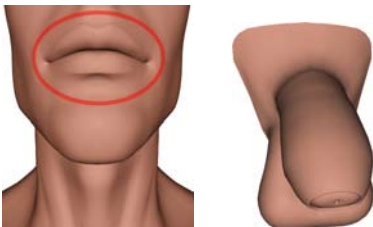
Genital herpes is a sexually transmitted infection (STI).



If you have unprotected sex (have sex and do not use a condom) you may get genital herpes.



The genital herpes virus can cause painful blisters and/or sores around your genitals or mouth.



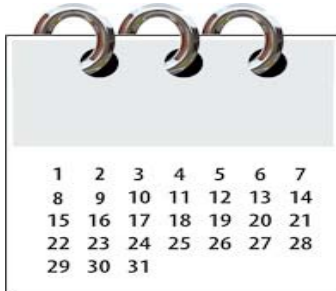


Men and women can get genital herpes.



Some people do not show any symptoms so do not know they have it and can pass it on.

Symptoms



**2-12
days**

Symptoms usually show between 2-12 days after contact with virus for the first time.



Itching, tingling, inflammation and discomfort in the infected area.



General flu like symptoms, headaches and high temperature.



Spots or red bumps may develop around the genital area. These can be painful.

Other Symptoms



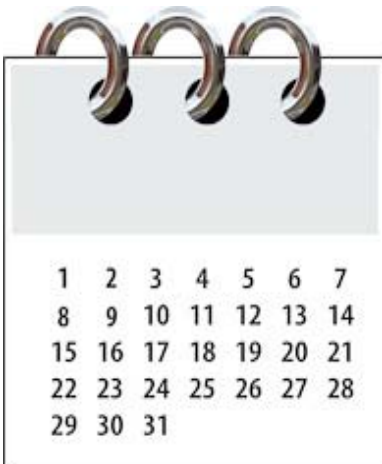
These swellings can break open and form sores or ulcers which gradually crust over.



You may feel pain when peeing or when opening bowels.



Mild swelling of lymph glands in the groin, armpits and neck.



There are two types of virus

Type One

The first episode may last **2 - 4 weeks**

You may never have a repeat episode but if you do it may not be as painful as the first episode.

Type Two

Every episode may be painful.



If you have any of these symptoms speak to your doctor.

How to Test



A swab of your genital area will be taken by a nurse or doctor.



If the result is positive you will be given anti-viral tablets.



To get a test or treatment
call **0300 303 0243**.

Where to go for information



www.lanarkshiresexualhealth.org



Your own doctor (GP).



Lanarkshire GUM (Genitourinary medicine) and Sexual Health Service.

0300 303 0243



To get free condoms go to your doctor (GP), clinic or chemist.



Or call **0300 303 0243**

Acknowledgements – Photosymbols & NHS Lanarkshire Sexual Health Services.

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