

Syphilis



An Easy Read Booklet

Syphilis



Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection.

If you have unprotected sex (did not use a condom) you may get syphilis from your partner.



Men and women can get syphilis.



Syphilis can be treated easily with antibiotic jags (injections).



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

Signs & Symptoms

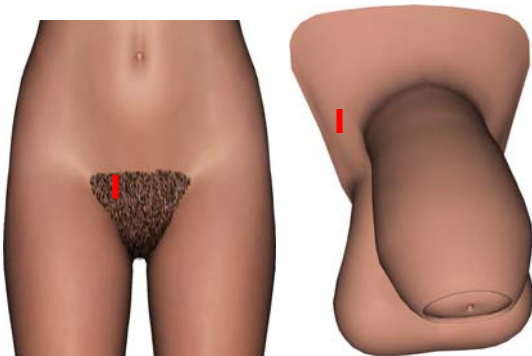
Syphilis will go through 3 different stages if not treated.

First Stage (10 days to six weeks) after first contact with infection.

You will usually see one small, round, painless, red sore.

This usually heals between 3 and 6 weeks.

You may have swollen glands near the sore.



Sometimes you may have a sore that you cannot see.



You should go and see your doctor for treatment.

If not treated the infection will develop into the second stage.



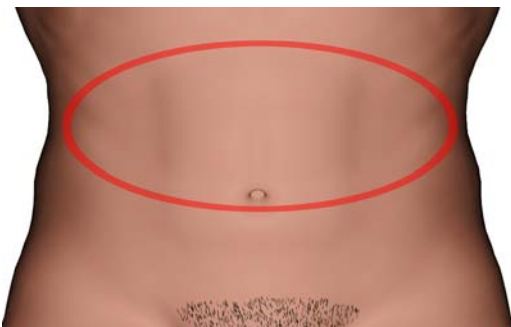
Second Stage (1 week to 6 months after stage one).

You will get a rash on your skin especially:

The palms of your hands.



The soles of your feet.



Your middle (Abdomen).



You may also get:
Headaches.



Aches & pains.



Fever.



Tiredness.



You may lose your hair.



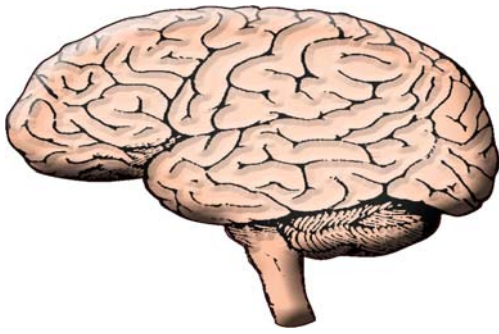
Sometimes you do not have any symptoms but syphilis is still in your body (latent period).

A blood test will show up the syphilis infection.



You should go and see your doctor for treatment.

If not treated syphilis will develop into the third stage which maybe years later.



Third Stage

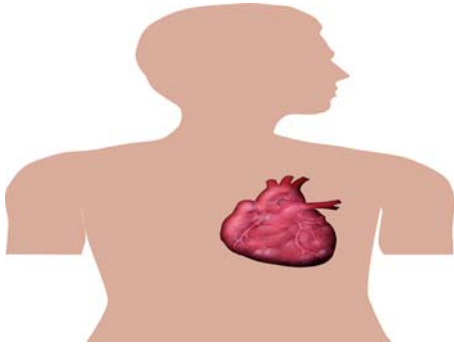
You may not show any signs or symptoms for years.

Syphilis

may damage your brain

and

may damage your heart and other organs.



It may kill you if not treated.

To reduce the risk of getting syphilis use condoms when having sex.

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

Or call 0300 303 0243 for your nearest centre.

