

# SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS [STIs]

The 'unglamorous' side of NOT using condoms



## Chlamydia

**Most common bacterial STI** that often has NO symptoms but can give individuals long term abdominal or testicular pain and can lead to infertility or other serious medical illnesses [males & females]. Can be prevented with the use of condoms and can be treated with antibiotics. Young people under the age of 25 should be tested every year and with every new partner.

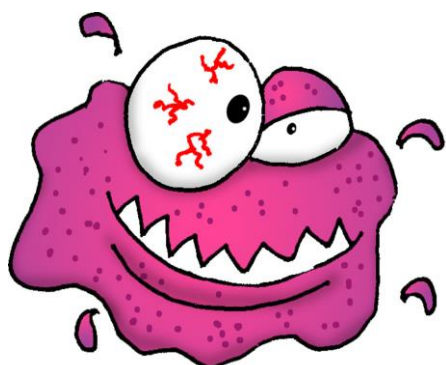
[www.checkyourself.org.uk](http://www.checkyourself.org.uk) [or pick up a self-testing kit from your GP practice]



## Gonorrhoea

**Another bacterial STI** that can cause irritation, discharge with odour and pain but also can have NO symptoms. It can be treated with specific antibiotics but there is Public Health concern regarding this STI becoming resistant to antibiotics and therefore treatment **MUST** be managed by a specialist Sexual Health [GUM] Clinic. It is rapidly spreading, especially among Gay communities but affects ALL sexual orientations. [Dual self – tests also available for under 25s

[www.checkyourself.org.uk](http://www.checkyourself.org.uk)]



## Herpes

**A viral STI** that leads to painful small blisters and ulcers. Although cannot be completely cured, with treatment, symptoms could become less severe over time.



## Genital Warts

**Common viral STI** but has become less since the introduction of the HPV vaccination programme. Involves localised treatment and may keep returning.



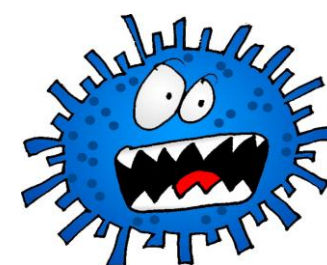
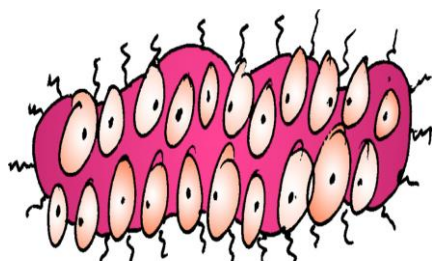
## Syphilis

**This serious STI** has returned to the scene and is on the increase [especially in Gay and Bi-Sexual men] It causes sores, ulcers and body rashes but if left untreated can become very serious.



## HIV

**A serious sexually transmitted viral infection** [can also be contracted in other ways] leaving individuals with a life-long infection that requires anti-viral medication for life. With treatment, individuals are likely to live a **NORMAL LIFE-SPAN** as long as the infection is **DIAGNOSED EARLY**. Bromley Public Health promotes **EARLY** testing to give individuals the opportunity of life without serious illness. [CONFIDENTIAL TESTING AVAILABLE AT GP PRACTICES]



**Hepatitis** **Serious viral infections** that affect the liver [Hep A, Hep B and increasingly Hep C] can be contracted by unprotected sexual intercourse.

**GOOD CONDOM USE CAN HELP PREVENT THE MISERY OF CONTRACTING ANY STI**

**FREE CONDOMS SCHEMES:-** [www.comecorrect.org.uk](http://www.comecorrect.org.uk) [under25]

[www.bromleyhealthcare.org.uk/find-a-service/](http://www.bromleyhealthcare.org.uk/find-a-service/)

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