

Classification of STDs

Disease	Causative Agent	Type	Key Signs & Symptoms
Gonorrhoea	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Bacterial	Burning sensation during urination, unusual discharge from genital tract, inflammation.
Syphilis	<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	Bacterial	Painless sores (chancres) on genital area, skin rashes, fever, long-term joint or organ damage if untreated.
Genital Warts	<i>Human Papillomavirus (HPV)</i>	Viral	Small, flesh-colored bumps or warts in the genital/anal region, itching, mild discomfort.
AIDS	<i>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)</i>	Viral	Severe weakening of the immune system, chronic fever, weight loss, susceptibility to opportunistic infections.

Modes of Transmission

- Unprotected Sexual Contact: Direct physical contact with an infected partner.
- Contaminated Blood Transfusion: Receiving blood or blood products infected with HIV.
- Infected Needles & Syringes: Sharing unsterilized needles (common in intravenous drug use or improper medical usage).
- Mother-to-Child (Maternal): Transmission during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding (particularly HIV and Syphilis).

Treatment

- Bacterial STDs (Gonorrhoea & Syphilis): Can be completely cured with a full course of antibiotics prescribed by a medical professional.
- Viral STDs (HIV-AIDS & Genital Warts): Cannot be cured completely by antibiotics.
- Symptoms can be managed using antiretroviral drugs (for HIV) or topical/surgical procedures (for warts) to improve quality of life and control viral load.

Prevention and Control

- Use of Barrier Methods: Consistent and correct usage of condoms during sexual activity acts as a physical barrier against pathogen transfer.
- Sterile Medical Equipment: Ensuring single-use disposable needles and syringes are used for medical procedures and blood tests.
- Screened Blood Transfusions: Verifying that donated blood is tested and certified free from HIV and hepatitis pathogens.
- Education and Awareness: Spreading accurate information about reproductive health and safe practices.
- Avoiding Drug Abuse: Preventing the sharing of infected needles.