

In men, symptoms can include frequent urination with a burning sensation, watery discharge from the penis, and burning/itching around the opening of the penis.

#### **Complications:**

Women who have Chlamydia are more susceptible to ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy inside the uterine tube) as well as pelvic inflammatory disease, which can result in infertility.

In men, complications can result in infertility and the spreading of the disease, if untreated.

#### **Treatment:**

Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics, such as tetracycline, given orally for 7 to 14 days.

## **GONORRHEA – WHAT IS IT?**

Gonorrhea is caused by a bacteria and is usually transmitted by sexual contact; it is one of the most commonly reported infectious diseases in the United States, with over 1 million cases reported annually.

#### **Symptoms:**

Women usually have no symptoms, or symptoms mild enough to be mistaken for something else. If symptoms are present, they usually include vaginal discharge and lower abdominal pain. In men, symptoms include burning during urination and a yellowish discharge from the penis.

#### **Complications:**

The most important complication is salpingitis, often referred to as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can often lead to infertility or ectopic pregnancy.

#### **Treatment:**

Antibiotics, such as penicillin, are frequently used. It is important to treat both partners as reinfection will increase the possibility of further attacks of PID.

## **HERPES SIMPLEX:**

Herpes simplex is a viral disease that can be transmitted by intimate sexual or close personal contact. There are two types of herpes viruses; one infects the mouth and the other the sex organs, but both can infect either area.

#### **Symptoms:**

The first symptoms of herpes appear about six

days following exposure to the virus. In men and women, the symptoms usually develop in phases. During the first phase, tingling, itching, burning or numbness develop in the affected area. In the active phase, lesions or blisters appear. In the healing phase, the blisters dry up and a scab forms, which eventually falls off.

#### **Complications:**

The main complication is pain, which can be recurrent and quite severe in some cases. The first attack is usually the worst and there is a tendency for each subsequent attack to be shorter, less severe and more spread apart in time. If an infected person gives birth when lesions are present, the child may be infected, may suffer permanent damage or may even die. Although there is no current treatment, a Caesarean section can prevent transmission to the baby at time of delivery.

#### **Treatment:**

There is no cure for herpes; however, a drug is available that may suppress frequent recurrences and lessen their severity.

## **SYPHILIS**

Syphilis is an infectious disease caused by a micro-organism which is usually acquired by sexual contact with another infected person. If untreated, syphilis will progress through three stages: the early stage is the most infectious. To diagnose syphilis, a doctor takes a scraping from the sore, or a blood test. In recent years, the incidence of infectious syphilis has continued to drop.

#### **Symptoms:**

During the primary disease, a painless sore (chancre) will develop at the spot where the micro-organism entered the body. The sore will disappear without treatment within 1 to 5 weeks. During secondary syphilis, a rash or flu symptoms, loss of hair and mouth sores are common. Latent syphilis can last 10 to 20 years with no outward signs.

#### **Complications:**

Most people with untreated syphilis experience a dangerous or tertiary stage, which can cause paralysis, heart failure or insanity.

#### **Treatment:**

Syphilis is quite treatable with antibiotics such as penicillin.