

| | Introduction to STIs Quiz | TRUE | FALSE | NOT SURE |
|-----------|---|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | The symptoms of STIs are sometimes not noticed | | | |
| 2 | All STIs can be cured | | | |
| 3 | A person cannot get a STI the first time they have sexual intercourse | | | |
| 4 | Some STIs can cause infertility | | | |
| 5 | Someone can get a STI from door knobs, toilet seats, or drinking fountains | | | |
| 6 | Condoms provide protection against STIs/HIV | | | |
| 7 | A young person does not need their parent's consent to be treated for a STI | | | |
| 8 | Chlamydia is the most common STI | | | |
| 9 | There are things a person can do to reduce the risk of getting a STI infection | | | |
| 10 | There is a place in Wolverhampton which treats young people who have STIs | | | |
| 11 | A person can't have more than one Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) at a time | | | |
| 12 | HPV can be transmitted by sexual intercourse | | | |

Answers

1. The symptoms of STIs are sometimes not noticed

Some STIs have few or no symptoms, or can lay dormant as in the case of Chlamydia which is the most common reportable STI. 70% of females and 50% of males have no symptoms.

2. All STIs can be cured

Any STI caused by a virus can only be treated, not cured. The virus will remain in a person's system for life. STIs caused by a virus include genital herpes, HIV/AIDS, HPV and Hepatitis B. In the case of HIV, many years can go by before there are any signs or symptoms of AIDS.

While Hepatitis B cannot be cured, a vaccine is offered that can reduce a person's chance of getting Hepatitis B. STIs which are caused by bacteria can be cured with antibiotics.

3. A person cannot get a STI the first time they have sexual intercourse

A person can get a STI or HIV as a result of any sexual contact. This can be through physical body contact with sexual organs, round the mouth, vagina, penis, anus and with body fluids (semen, vaginal fluid, blood and breast milk).

4. Some STIs can cause infertility

Chlamydia is the most common Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) in the UK. It affects predominantly young people, with approximately one or two people in every ten between the ages of 16 and 25 having it. In 70% of women and 50% of men there are no symptoms whatsoever, so it really is worth having a test. (Silent Chlamydia infection is the single most important reason why people seek IVF treatment later in life). The treatment is a simple course of antibiotics. People do not need to have had a lot of sexual partners in order to catch an STI but, if left untreated, the infection can lead to infertility in women, epididymitis in men, which causes pain in one or both testicles. Both men and women can suffer serious complications later in life.

5. Someone can get a STI from door knobs, toilet seats, or drinking fountains

You can't, it is virtually impossible. There are no known cases of contracting an STI from toilet seats, door knobs or drinking fountains.

6. Condoms provide protection against STI/HIV

If condoms are used properly and every time, they can provide fairly good protection from STI/HIV (but they are not 100% effective). Condoms need to be latex or polyurethane (not novelty and have the kite or CE mark on them, be in date and be used correctly). Condoms may not totally prevent the transmission of HPV (genital warts) or herpes.

7. A young person does not need their parent's consent to be treated for a STI

Information shared between a doctor and a patient is strictly confidential even if they are under 16, unless the professional thinks they are in danger it then becomes a child protection issue. (This is a very complex subject as professionals operate under the Fraser Guidelines, see appendix C5 to assess if the young person is competent. If the female is under 13 it immediately becomes a safeguarding issue). In Wolverhampton there is a scheme called You're Welcome, any service who displays this sign is Young Person Friendly.

8. Chlamydia is the most common STI

Around one in 10 young people in England are infected with genital Chlamydia which is passed on by both men and women through having sex without using a condom. It can also be transferred by oral sex or sharing sex toys. However, it cannot be caught by kissing, sharing towels or cups or from toilet seats.

The most sensible thing people can do is to use a condom when having sex, every time, before any genital contact whatsoever. Preferably, opt for the 'Double Dutch' approach which means using condoms to protect against STIs and the pill or another LARC method of contraception to avoid pregnancy.

9. There are things a person can do to reduce the risk of getting an STI infection

A person can abstain from sexual contact, use protective measures such as male or female condoms or dental dams, communicate with their partner, or choose to be mutually monogamous (only have the one partner in a relationship) with an uninfected partner or a partner who has had regular check-ups for HIV/STIs.

10. There is a place in Wolverhampton which treats young people who have STIs

Genital Urinary Medicine GUM at New Cross Hospital, Wednesfield Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP
Telephone 01902 695000

The GUM Clinic at New Cross Hospital is the place to go if you think you may have a sexually transmitted infection. If you've taken a risk, or have symptoms such as a discharge from the penis or vagina, abdominal pain or lumps or bumps around the genitalia, this is the best place to go. GUM is a very, very confidential service, so you don't even have to give your name. The visit for a full set of checks may take a couple of hours, but you will have the majority of results the same day, others will take up to a week to come through. GUM will give you the treatment free of charge. GUM also gives out the emergency contraception.

See also the included Local Sexual Health Service Information

11. A person can't have more than one Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) at a time.

A person can be infected with more than one STI. A person with an untreated STI may also be 6-10 times more likely to pass on or acquire HIV during sex. Risk for infection increases 10 to 300-fold in the presence of a genital ulcer, such as occurs in syphilis or genital herpes.

12. HPV can be transmitted by sexual Intercourse

The virus can be transmitted during vaginal, oral and anal sex or close skin-to-skin contact with someone who is infected.

Different types of HPV cause different problems. Some types can lead to genital warts, whilst other types can lead to cervical cancer (cancer of the opening of the uterus), and other cancers (cancer of the penis or anus). It is possible to have more than one type of HPV. Treatments are available to remove warts caused by HPV, they do not treat the underlying HPV infection in the surrounding area and the warts may recur. There is no known cure for HPV infections but many people will eventually clear the infection from their bodies. However, some infections do persist.

Practising safer sex can help reduce the risk of getting or transmitting the infection. HPV is often a 'silent' infection, in that many people with HPV will have no obvious signs of infection. However, the infection can cause changes that can be seen under a microscope.

For women, the majority of HPV infections affect the cells of the cervix. This infection can be either active or inactive. With an inactive infection, the cells appear normal under a microscope and the woman may never know she was infected. The body fights the virus in a way that isn't clearly understood. However, with an active infection, changes can be seen in the cervical cells under a microscope.

People do not need to have had a lot of sexual partners in order to catch the infection but, if left untreated, the infection can lead to infertility in women, epididymitis in men, which causes pain in one or both testicles.

Both men and women can suffer serious complications later in life. The HPV injection is being given to Year 8 girls, it can help to protect against cervical cancer, there are some risks as there are with any injection. Exclusion criteria is for anyone below Year 7, acute illness, anyone who has had a reaction to a previous jab, high temperature, pregnant, immuno-suppressed and an anaphylactic reaction to a vaccine. This is obviously something to discuss with parents/carers, permission from home is required.