

Syphilis

Since I last saw you, a health professional has told me that I have syphilis. It is a sexually transmitted infection. You might have this infection too.

You could have this infection even if you don't have symptoms. It's important that you see a doctor or a nurse quickly to get tested and treated, if necessary. The treatment is simple and free.

If left untreated, syphilis can cause serious harm to the heart, brain, bones and liver. Pregnant women who have syphilis can spontaneously abort, have premature or stillborn babies, or their babies may be born with malformations. Also, syphilis increases the risk of getting or spreading HIV.

Avoid having sex until you know if you have syphilis or until you get treated. If you can't wait, use a condom for vaginal and anal sex. When you have oral sex, use a condom or a piece of latex. This way, you'll avoid spreading the infection.

To find out where to go to have a screening test and get treated, call

› [Info-Santé at 8-1-1](tel:1-877-313-1313).

For more information, go to the following websites:

› Quebec.ca/itss

It's important for me to share this news with you because I care about your health.

Information about syphilis

PREVENTION	MODES OF TRANSMISSION	SYMPTOMS	SCREENING	TREATMENT
<p>Condoms provide the best protection against sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p>Using a condom when sharing sex toys reduces the risk of transmission (use a new condom for each partner).</p> <p>A piece of latex (cut out of a non-lubricated latex condom or glove) decreases the risk of transmission during oral sex (contact between the mouth and the vulva or anus).</p> <p>→ Avoid having sex or always use a condom when you have vaginal or anal sex until you get confirmation that you don't have syphilis or until you get treatment. Use a condom or a piece of latex when you have oral sex.</p>	<p>Sexual transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Contact between the penis and the vulva, vagina or anus, with or without ejaculation > Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, vagina or anus > Rubbing genitals with your partner > Sharing sex toys > Direct contact with the sores of someone who is infected <p>Transmission from an infected mother to her infant during pregnancy or childbirth.</p> <p>Blood-borne transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Contact with the blood of someone who is infected (rare) 	<p>Sometimes, there are no symptoms. When there are symptoms, they vary depending on the stage of the infection.</p> <p>Stage 1</p> <p>Symptoms begin up to 3 months after transmission. Symptoms can include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > one or several painless sores (ulcers) on the penis, vulva, vagina, anus, mouth or in the throat. <p>Sores often disappear on their own after a few weeks. However, the infection is still in the body.</p> <p>Stage 2</p> <p>Symptoms begin up to 6 months after transmission.</p> <p>Symptoms can include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > symptoms similar to those of the flu: fever, headache, fatigue, muscle pain, swollen glands (lumps), > rash or lesions on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet or elsewhere on the body. <p>Symptoms often disappear on their own after a several weeks. However, the infection is still in the body.</p> <p>Latent stage</p> <p>No symptoms. However, the infection is still in the body. This stage can last several years</p> <p>→ You can have and spread syphilis even if you don't have symptoms.</p>	<p>Blood test</p>	<p>Antibiotics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > cure syphilis and prevent complications; > are free for people who are infected and their partners. <p>To get free access, a person must have a prescription and present his or her health insurance card at the pharmacy.</p> <p>→ Because you've been in contact with someone who has syphilis, you must see a doctor or a nurse quickly to get tested and treated, if you need it.</p>
<p>→ You can catch syphilis more than once.</p>	<p>→ You can have and spread syphilis even if you don't have symptoms.</p>			