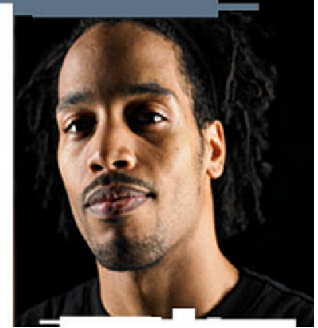


## Top STD Questions for Men



### How do I know if my partner or I have an STD?

**The truth is, many STDs don't have symptoms men or women can see or feel. The only way to know for sure if you have an STD is to have regular testing for STDs.**

Still, it's important to learn what is normal for your body or your partner's body. Get things checked out when something changes, like a new or unusual discharge (yellow or white fluid) coming out of your penis.

Other things that may not be normal in men include:

- » Pain when you have sex or pee
- » Burning when you pee
- » Bumps or sores around your penis, anus, or mouth
- » Pain in your testicles
- » Rashes on your body

Things that may not be normal in women include:

- » Discharge from her vagina
- » Unusual bleeding that is different from her period
- » Pain when she has sex
- » Burning when she pees
- » Bumps or sores around her vagina, anus, or mouth
- » Fever and pain in her belly
- » Rashes on her body

### What happens when I get STD testing?

Depending on the STD you're being tested for and what place on your body might be infected, you might be asked to pee in a cup (that urine sample could be tested for gonorrhea, chlamydia, or trichomonas), or to give a sample of your blood (that blood could be tested for HIV infection, herpes, or syphilis). If the doctor or nurse thinks it's necessary, he or she may swab your throat or mouth, the tip of your penis or your anus, or a rash or sore (that swab could be tested for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, or herpes), but the majority of screenings done only require a urine or blood sample.

### Can I get an STD more than once?

Yes. Bacterial STDs like chlamydia and gonorrhea are curable, but you do not become immune once you've been through treatment. Generally if you cure an STD, and then have sex with a partner who is infected, you can get it again.

### Is there anything I can do after sex to prevent getting an STD, like washing or peeing?

STDs cannot be flushed or washed away, so peeing and washing will not prevent a bacterial or viral STD and nor will they cause a STD to go away.

### How long do I need to have an STD before it shows up on a test?

**It depends on the STD.** Some STDs, like gonorrhea or chlamydia, may take just a few days to show up on a test. Other STDs, like HIV infection, syphilis or herpes, may take a few weeks to several months to show up on a test. This is why it's important to get regular testing for STDs. Talk to a doctor or nurse about how often you should get tested for STDs.

### Can I keep from getting an STD if I put on a condom right before coming, or as long as I pull out before I come?

**No.** Any direct contact between your skin and your partner's skin, or between you and your partner's body fluids (blood, semen, pre-cum, vaginal fluids) might result in acquiring an STD. So if you only wear a condom right before coming, you might still be exposed to an STD.

### Can I get an STD if my partner has her period?

**Yes.** In fact, some STDs like HIV may be more contagious when a woman is having her period. And the other STDs are certainly not any less contagious when a woman is having her period.

### If my partner is on the pill, can I still get an STD?

**Yes.** Birth control pills, and other birth control methods like the shot (Depo-Provera), the patch (OrthoEvra), and the ring (Nuvaring) are hormones designed to prevent pregnancy. These hormones don't protect against STDs. Men should still use condoms to protect themselves (and their partners) against infections even if their female partners are on birth control. STDs are transmitted through body fluids like semen and vaginal fluids, or in some cases just by having skin-to-skin contact with an infected person.