

Scabies



We respect your right to responsible sexuality!

Facts:

- Infection caused by a tiny mite called *Sarcoptes scabiei*.
- The female mite burrows into the skin and lays eggs which then hatch many days later. The cycle repeats itself with the newly hatched mites continuing to lay eggs.
- Passed through prolonged skin-to-skin contact, including sex, with an infected person. People living together can pass it to each other through shared towels, bed linens, clothing and furniture.
- Symptoms show up about 4-6 weeks after infection.
- Infection can occur in the genital area, the webbing between the fingers and toes, arms, ankles, buttocks, breasts and shoulder blades.
- **Curable with medication but you can get it again if you have contact with scabies.**

Symptoms:

- The most common symptom of scabies is itching. This is most noticeable in the evening after bathing or working out.
- Sores on the body caused by scratching which can become infected with bacteria.

Testing:

- A visual exam- burrows created by the mites can be seen with the naked eye or a magnifying glass.

Treatment:

- A special medicated lotion prescribed by your doctor or clinic.
- All clothing, bedding and towels of an infected person should be washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer.

Prevention/Protection:

- Have all your partners tested and treated. If they are not cured, they can pass it back to you or to others.
- **DO NOT SHARE YOUR MEDICINE WITH YOUR PARTNER!** The amount given to you is only enough to cure your infection.
- Abstain from having sex with your partner(s). Discover and explore other ways to express your sexual self that don't include vaginal, anal or oral sex.
- Only have sex with a partner who only has sex with you. To reduce the chances of getting an infection when you have more than one partner, use condoms and get tested before having sex with a new partner.
- Limit your number of sex partners - the more partners you have, the higher your risk for getting an infection.
- Use condoms (rubbers) and dental dams every time you have vaginal, oral and anal sex.
- Alcohol and drugs lower inhibitions (take your guard down.) If you are more likely to make different decisions for yourself when you have been drinking, you may want to drink less or be sure to have condoms with you.

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This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for talking with a health care provider. If you have any questions about scabies or think you may have it, call your health care provider