

Chancroid

Chancroid is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a type of bacteria called *Hemophilus ducreyi*. It can infect men and women. Chancroid can be passed between people during anal, oral, or vaginal sex. Although chancroid is uncommon in San Francisco, returning travelers from Asia, Central America and the Caribbean may carry it.

How is chancroid spread?

It is passed from one person to another when having anal, oral, or vaginal sex with an infected person.

What do I look for?

Men:

- Painful or painless sores on the penis, or around the groin or rectum.
- Pain or swelling in the groin area.
- Pain when having bowel movements.

Women:

- Painful or painless sores around or inside the vagina or rectum.
- Pain when urinating.
- Pain when having bowel movements.
- Rarely, sores can be found on the breast, fingers, thighs or in the mouth.

Is chancroid dangerous?

Yes! If not treated, the sores can grow and become more difficult to treat. The open sores produced by chancroid make it easier to acquire HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Therefore, prompt diagnosis and treatment is important.

What is the treatment?

- Antibiotics (pills or shots) your clinician gives you will kill the bacteria that causes chancroid. Take all of the medicine, even if you feel better.
- If you may be pregnant, tell your clinician.
- Your sex partner(s) must be examined and treated. If not treated, they can give the infection back to you, or infect others.

How do I avoid getting chancroid?

- Plan ahead! Protect yourself!
- If you're thinking of having sex with a new partner:
 1. Talk about STDs
 2. Talk about your wish to have protected, safer sex (male or female condoms) 100% of the time
- Suggest an STD check-up for both of you before having sex.

For more information about STD's, consult these websites:

<http://www.noah-health.org/>

<http://www.ashastd.org/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

<http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/sfcityclinic/>

<http://www.sfsi.org/>

WARNING: HIV is also an STD! All STDs are spread by having unsafe sex. When you get infected with an STD, you could also be getting HIV. Protect yourself - use condoms (male or female)!

For a STD check-up or treatment,
see your doctor, local clinic, or come to:



City Clinic
356 Seventh Street
(between Folsom and Harrison)
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415)487-5500

<http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/sfcityclinic/>