

Crabs/Scabies

Crabs are very small bugs that attach themselves to the pubic hairs and bite the surrounding skin. Scabies are mites (bugs) that dig under the skin where they lay their eggs. Both cause extreme itching in men and women.

How are crabs and scabies spread?

They are usually passed from one person to another during sex. They can also be caught by sharing clothes, bedding, stuffed or padded furniture, futons, or towels that have been used by a person with crabs or scabies.

What to look for?

Crabs

Men and women may have any of the following symptoms:

- Itching in the pubic hair area
- May see tiny, crawling insect(s) or eggs attached to the pubic hair.

Scabies

Men and women may have the following symptoms:

- Itching in the pubic area
- Bites on skin, which may itch – particularly around the fingers, armpits, waist and pubic hair area

Men may also have the following symptoms:

- Red patches on the penis

How do you cure crabs or scabies?

- The usual treatment for crabs is Pyrethrin or Permethrin (brand name RID, NIX or A-200). These lotions can be purchased at a drugstore. Be sure to follow your medical provider's instructions.
- The usual treatment for scabies is a lotion or cream prescribed by a clinician. (Apply the lotion to the entire body, starting at the neck.). Be sure to follow your medical provider's instructions to completely get rid of scabies.
- If you are pregnant tell your provider.
- **Wash all clothing and bedding in hot water to avoid reinfection.**
- You may continue to itch for a couple of weeks after you finish treatment but you should not develop new bites.

How do you cure crabs or scabies?

- Tell all people you have sex with, share a bed or clothing with to be examined and checked for symptoms or they can give the infection back to you.
- If you have items that cannot be washed (such as a leather jacket, comforter, etc.) either have them dry-cleaned or seal them in a plastic bag and do not open it for two weeks.

How to avoid getting crabs or scabies?

If you buy second hand clothing or get clothing from someone else, be sure and wash it in hot water before wearing. You can also seal it in a plastic bag for two weeks.

Don't share a bed with or have sex with someone who has body sores or who seems to have a problem with body itching.

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/>



A landmark in prevention

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/>