

Chapter 44

Nursing Care of Patients With Sexually Transmitted Infections

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the pathogens involved with each of the common sexually transmitted infections (S T I's).
- Describe the signs and symptoms of each of the common S T I's.
- Plan teaching to promote S T I prevention.
- Describe treatment options for common S T I's.
- Plan nursing care for patients with S T I's.
- Explain how you will know if your nursing interventions have been effective.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

An S T I is any infection that can be transmitted through intimate contact with the genitals, mouth, or rectum of another individual.

Disorders Related to S T I's

- Vulvovaginitis
- Urethritis
- Mucopurulent cervicitis (M P C)
- Proctitis
- Enteritis
- Genital ulcers
- Cellular changes
- Pelvic inflammatory disease (P I D)

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

- Pelvic cavity infection
- Cervicitis
- Endometritis
- Salpingitis

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (continued_1)

■ Risk factors

- Multiple sex partners
- S T I's
- Substance abuse
- Frequent douching
- Intrauterine device use

■ Signs and symptoms

- Abdominal pain
- Purulent vaginal discharge
- Pain with intercourse
- Nausea, vomiting
- Pain on urination

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (continued_2)

■ Interventions

- Antibiotics
- Laparoscopic surgery for adhesions
- S T I testing
- Education

Chlamydia

- Etiology
 - *Chlamydia trachomatis*
- Signs and symptoms
 - Urethritis
 - M P C
 - Conjunctivitis
 - Prostatitis, epididymitis

Chlamydia (continued)

- Diagnostic tests
 - Culture
 - Nucleic acid amplification testing (N A A T)
- Interventions
 - Antibiotics
 - Ophthalmic ointment for baby

Gonorrhea

- Etiology
 - *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- Signs and symptoms
 - Men
 - Urethritis
 - Discharge
 - Epididymitis
 - Women
 - M P C, P I D
 - Urethritis
 - Menstrual problems

Gonorrhea (continued)

- Diagnosis
 - N A A T
 - Culture
- Interventions
 - Antibiotics
 - Antibiotic eye drops for infant

Syphilis

- Etiology
 - *Treponema pallidum*

Syphilis (continued_1)

- Signs and symptoms
 - Primary stage
 - Chancre
 - Secondary stage
 - Flu-like symptoms
 - Skin rash
 - Condylomatous growths
 - Tertiary stage
 - Gummas
 - Systemic disease



Syphilis (continued_2)

■ Serological tests

- Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (V D R L) test
- Rapid plasma reagin (R P R)
- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)
- Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption (F T A-A B S)

■ Intervention

- Penicillin

Trichomoniasis

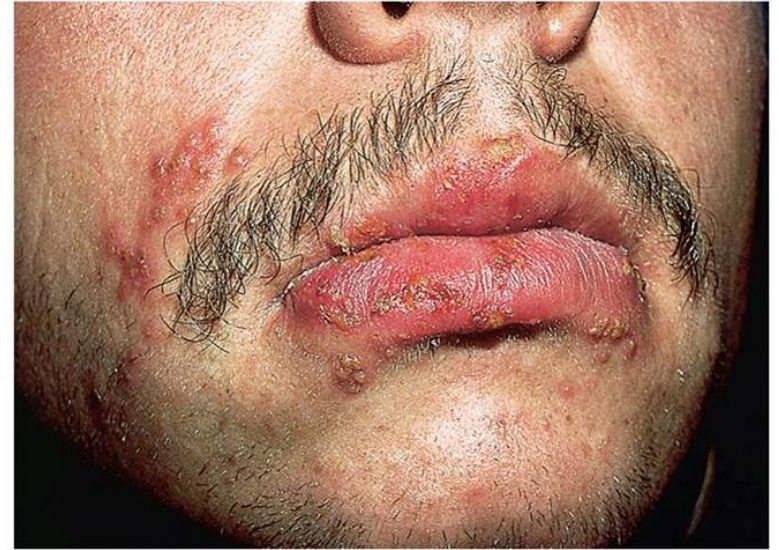
- Signs and symptoms
 - Genital redness and swelling
 - Itching, burning
 - Foul discharge
 - Urethritis, prostatitis
 - Strawberry cervix

Trichomoniasis (continued)

- Diagnostic tests
 - Microscopic examination
 - ThinPrep Pap
 - N A A T
- Interventions
 - Metronidazole (Flagyl)
 - Tinidazole (Tindamax)

Herpes Simplex

- Signs and symptoms
 - Vesicles/ulcerations
 - Flu-like symptoms
 - Lymphadenopathy
 - Urethritis, cystitis
 - M P C



Herpes Simplex (continued)

■ Diagnostic tests

- Cultures
- Western blot
- Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 (H S V 1 and 2)
- IgG antibody testing

■ Interventions

- Antiviral medication
- Prophylactic treatment in pregnancy
- Cesarean delivery to protect baby

Low-Risk Human Papillomavirus (H P V)

- Genital warts
- Diagnosis
 - Visualization
 - Biopsy
- Interventions
 - Cryotherapy
 - Electrocautery
 - Topical agents
 - Interferon therapy

Low-Risk H P V (continued)

- Gardasil vaccine
- Complications rare

High-Risk H P V

- H P V infection
- May lead to cancers
 - Cervical
 - Vaginal
 - Vulvar
 - Anal
 - Penile
 - Oropharyngeal

High-Risk H P V (continued)

- Prevention

- H P V vaccine

- Treatment

- Treat infection
- Treat cancer

Hepatitis B

- Etiology
 - Hepatitis B virus
- Infection of liver
- May be sexually transmitted
- May be transmitted to baby

Genital Parasites

- Etiology
 - Lice
 - Scabies
- Interventions
 - Topical insecticides
- Diagnosis
 - Microscopic examination

Reporting of S T I's

- Requirements vary by state or province
- Include notification of contacts

Nursing Diagnoses for Patients With S T I's

- *Acute Pain*
- *Risk for Infection* related to transmission to others
- *Readiness for Enhanced Health Management*
- *Ineffective Sexuality Pattern*

Patient Teaching

- Safer sex practices
 - No such thing as safe sex
- Medication administration
- Signs of complications to report

Review Question

Which S T I's require prophylactic eye drops for newborns? *Select all that apply.*

1. Chlamydia
2. Gonorrhea
3. Trichomoniasis
4. Pelvic inflammatory disease
5. Mucopurulent cervicitis

Review Question Answer

Correct Answer: **1, 2**

Review Question (continued_1)

What is the best way to avoid an S T I?

1. Have all partners tested.
2. Use condoms and spermicidal jelly.
3. Practice abstinence.
4. Examine partners prior to sexual encounter.

Review Question Answer (continued_1)

Correct Answer: **3**

Review Question (continued_2)

Which S T I manifests as painful blisters on the genitals?

1. Herpes simplex virus
2. Chlamydia
3. Human papillomavirus
4. Gonorrhea

Review Question Answer (continued_2)

Correct Answer: **1**

Review Question (continued_3)

Which S T I is associated with development of a chancre?

1. Gonorrhea
2. Herpes simplex virus 2
3. Trichomoniasis
4. Syphilis

Review Question Answer (continued_3)

Correct Answer: **4**

Review Question (continued_4)

Who should receive the Gardasil vaccine?

1. Girls aged 6 to 8 years
2. Men aged 15 to 25 years
3. Women and men aged 9 to 26 years
4. Women and men aged 18 to 30 years

Review Question Answer (continued_4)

Correct Answer: **3**