

Fact Sheet

Chancroid

What is Chancroid?

Chancroid is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a bacteria. The infection is most common in men, but women can also be infected.

How is it spread?

Chancroid is spread through sexual contact with someone who has the infection.

What are the symptoms of Chancroid?

Symptoms include:

- Blisters in the genital area and can develop into sores (ulcers).
- Redness around the area of the sores (ulcers).
- Swollen glands around the genital area.

It is possible for an individual to not know they have Chancroid. Even if you don't have the symptoms it is still possible to pass the infection to others.

How is Chancroid tested?

A genital swab of the sore or blister is done to collect a specimen for lab testing. However, a blood test may also be done to check for other STIs.

If you have more than one sexual partner, or if your partner has more than one sexual partner, you should be tested for Chancroid and other STIs, including Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and HIV. You should also consider the vaccine to prevent Hepatitis B infection. The more sexual partners an individual has, the higher the risk of getting any STI.

How is Chancroid treated?

Chancroid can be treated successfully with antibiotics. An individual's sexual partner(s) should also be tested and treated if they have the infection.

How to prevent infection?

- Do not have sexual contact if there are ulcers, swelling, or redness in your or your partner's genital area.
- Limit your sexual partners and ask your partner to do the same. Your risk of becoming infected with an STI increases with the number of sexual partners.
- Use a new condom each and every time you have vaginal, oral or anal sex, If you think you might be infected, go to your community or public health centre, to see a nurse or doctor .

Visit (<http://www.irespectmyself.ca>) to learn more about sexual health and relationships.