Pregnancy and STIs

STIs can be passed from a pregnant woman to her baby during or after birth. Certain STIs (like syphilis) have the ability to cross the placenta and infect the baby while it is in the uterus. Other STIs (like gonorrhea, chlamydia, hepatitis B, and genital herpes) can be transmitted from the mother to the baby during a vaginal delivery. HIV can cross the placenta and infect the baby while in the uterus, it can infect the baby during a vaginal delivery, or it can be passed to the baby through breast feeding.

A pregnant woman with an STI may also have early onset of labor, premature rupture of the membranes surrounding the baby in the uterus, and uterine infection after delivery.

STIs can result in stillbirth, low birth weight, conjunctivitis (eye infection), pneumonia, neonatal sepsis (infection in the baby's bloodstream), neurological damage, blindness, deafness, acute hepatitis, meningitis, chronic liver disease, and cirrhosis. Most of these problems can be prevented if the mother receives routine prenatal care, which includes screening tests for STIs starting early in pregnancy and repeated close to delivery, if necessary. Other problems can be treated if the infection is found at birth.

What is an STI?

A sexually transmitted infection (STI) is an infection that can be spread from person to person through sexual activity. Most STIs have no symptoms; you can be infected and not know it. This is why getting tested is so important.

Testing and Treatment

Testing varies for different types of STIs. Most testing is painless and requires no needles. You can typically be tested for a number of STIs by having a urine test or a swab test done by a healthcare provider. Some STI testing may require a blood test or secretion test from a sore.

Many STIs are curable if detected and treated early. Generally, reparative new drugs are available for some STIs. If you believe you have an STI, you should seek medical attention as soon as possible. If you have had sex with someone and feel something is wrong, you should seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Prevention is Possible.

You can decrease or eliminate your risk of STI infection by:

- Communicating. Talk with your partner(s) about STIs and your sexual health.
- Before starting a sexual relationship with a new partner, be sure you take an HIV test and also have your partner take an HIV test.
- Committing. Refuse with yourpartner(s). Practice safe sex with your partner(s).

The Facts

- Every 3 seconds, someone contracts an STI.
- Every $5 million people in the USA are living with an STI.
- Over 65 million people in the USA are living with an STI.
- STIs are more common than you think. More than half of all STIs go untreated or undiagnosed.

Adagio Health and our network of care providers are here to help. Your health matters to us. For judgment-free care, call 1.800.215.7494.

The HPV Vaccine

Adagio Health recommends Gardasil - a vaccine that prevents infection with certain types of Human Papilloma Virus or HPV. HPV is associated with cervical, vulvar, vaginal, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal (throat, tongue, and tonsil) cancer as well as genital warts. The vaccine is recommended for both females and males ages 9 - 26. Gardasil is most effective if it is given before a person is exposed to the virus through sexual activity.

HPV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can be spread through sexual activity. Most STIs are curable if detected and treated early, so it’s important to be tested.

Adagio Health provides health and wellness services to all women and their families with a focus on those in need.