

### Who should get tested and how often?

If you are sexually active, you should get tested for some STIs (like gonorrhea and chlamydia).<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>

Definitely get tested if you have any of the following typical symptoms of an STI:

- Increased or abnormal vaginal discharge or bleeding
- Lower abdominal pain
- Blisters
- Painful or increased frequency of urination
- Painful intercourse or bleeding afterwards

Also consider additional testing if:

- a partner has been diagnosed or treated for an STI
- engaging with a new or multiple sexual partners
- having unprotected sex
- sharing intravenous (IV) needles, or
- engaging in other activities that could be considered risky

Don't assume you will be tested. Talk with your healthcare provider to see what the CDC recommends for you.

# What are my options for testing, and how long does it take?

Getting tested for STIs is easy. New advances in testing are now available — you can get tested in your provider's office and get results in less than 30 minutes.

### Knowledge is power - protect yourself and others

Ask your healthcare provider for the Visby Medical Sexual Health Test so you get tested and treated within just one visit.



This device has received 510(k) clearance by the FDA and granted a CLIA waiver.



For a complete list of references and footnotes, please scan code or go to: grco.de/bexJ93

PL-000281 Rev A

### Guide to Proactive Sexual Health



How to reduce your risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) through testing

visby medical



#### STIs are common

Any sexually active person can become infected with a sexually transmitted infection (STI). Although such a diagnosis may foster feelings of shame or embarrassment, it's important to know so you can protect yourself and others. Get tested regularly.

Don't wait until something feels wrong "down there." Chances are high (70%) that you won't have any symptoms until a chlamydia, gonorrhea or trichomonas infection becomes serious. Sometimes, symptoms are so mild that you might dismiss it as a common yeast infection.<sup>5</sup>



Today, one in five people (that's 20%!) in the United States have an STI.<sup>7</sup>

In 2021, the STI Surveillance Report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that cases of STIs in the United States have reached an all-time high for the sixth consecutive year.<sup>7</sup>

The best way to take care of your health and the health of your partner(s) is to practice safe sex using condoms and to get tested regularly to make sure you don't have an STI or to get immediate treatment if you do.



# If you don't get tested, you won't know

Left untreated, STIs can have serious long-term consequences and can harm your reproductive system and overall health. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)<sup>2</sup> is a serious infection of the female reproductive system which includes the womb, fallopian tubes, and ovaries. Although there are no obvious symptoms,<sup>3</sup> PID increases your risk of:

- Internal abscesses
- Chronic pelvic pain
- Tubal or ectopic pregnancy (i.e., when a pregnancy occurs outside of the uterus, which can be fatal for the woman)
- Miscarriage or loss of early pregnancy
- Inflammation of the uterine lining following childbirth
- Infertility



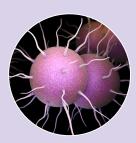
### **Curable, but not harmless**

The good news is that most STIs are easily cured—if you take the right, highly specific, antibiotic for your particular type of infection.

**Chlamydia**<sup>4</sup> is the most common STI caused by a bacteria. Treating chlamydia quickly is critical. It will not repair any damage already done, though.



Gonorrhea<sup>3</sup> is also caused by a bacteria. Up to 20% of women infected with gonorrhea develop PID. If you're pregnant but go untreated, your baby can be infected during childbirth.



#### Trichomoniasis<sup>5</sup>

(or "trich") is a very common STI caused by a parasite, and 70% of infected persons don't develop any symptoms. Untreated infections can last from months to



years. Other effects include increasing the risk of contracting HIV by two to three times and giving birth to infants who are small for their gestational age.