



SYPHILIS

SYPHILIS is a very serious sexually transmitted infection. Syphilis is called the “great imitator” because it has so many possible symptoms, many of which look like symptoms from other diseases. Why is it serious? Syphilis stays in your body if you don’t get treated. It can spread to your brain, spinal cord or other parts of your body. It can make you paralyzed, blind or even mentally ill.

SYPHILIS is contracted by direct contact with a syphilis sore, called a chancre. They may be small or large and usually do not hurt. The sores can be found on the anus, lip, penis, vagina, lips and mouth. Lymph glands may also be swollen near the sore. The sore may disappear after 2-6 weeks but you will still have syphilis and it can show up again later in other ways, such as feeling like you have the flu, fever, body aches, sore throat, headaches or swollen glands. You may also get a rash on your body, in your mouth, on the palms of your hands or on the sex organs. Sometimes hair loss occurs. These symptoms may go away but you will still have the disease if you do not get treated. Having syphilis once does not protect you from getting it again, even if you were treated with the right antibiotics.

SYPHILIS can spread to your unborn child if you are pregnant or cause a miscarriage or cause the baby to be stillborn. If the baby is born it can have congenital syphilis and be born blind, deaf or have seizures.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR AN APPOINTMENT CONTACT THE WFWCPHD – STI CLINIC
AT 940-761-7841**



