

herpes

is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by two types of viruses. Herpes simplex type 1 virus and herpes simplex type 2.

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GENITAL HERPES

Genital herpes is common in the United States. About 1 in every 6 people have genital herpes.

HOW DO I GET IT?

You can get herpes by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has the disease. Herpes spread easily. Even skin that looks normal can spread herpes. Herpes can spread to the eyes, nose, mouth, genitals and rectum.

HOW CAN I TELL?

Most people with herpes can't tell and don't know they have herpes. It is common for herpes to be mistaken for a pimple or ingrown hair. Herpes sores usually appear as one or more blisters in the genitals, rectum or mouth area. The blisters break and leave painful sores that may take weeks to heal.

HOW DO I TEST FOR IT?

You can get tested by a health provider take a sample of the blister or sore. You must ask your health care provider to test for herpes when asking for a STD test.

IS THERE A CURE?

There is no cure for herpes. There are medicines that can prevent or shorten herpes blisters. Medication can also help prevent spreading herpes to your partner. Talk to your doctor about being pregnant, genital herpes, and the risks to your baby. *Learn more and order a free at-home STD test at:*

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