



The Stages of Syphilis

Syphilis can be detected through a blood test and treated with antibiotics throughout the stages. However, the longer syphilis is allowed to live in the body, the more antibiotics it will take to kill it.



Secondary Syphilis

Before the chancre goes away, or long after its healed, syphilis will cause a rash of rough brownish-red bumps across the body (usually on the torso, hands and feet). The rash isn't itchy and may be very faint. Other symptoms in this stage include swollen lymph nodes and fever.



Tertiary Syphilis

Without treatment, syphilis can start attacking major organs. This usually happens about 10 – 30 years after initial infection. The brain, heart, gums and eyes are all common targets of syphilis. Symptoms include severe headaches, difficulties moving muscles, dementia, blindness and bleeding gums.

Primary

Primary Syphilis

When syphilis infects the body it leaves a mark in the shape of a bump. This sore is called a chancre and usually appears on the genitals or mouth (depending on the type of sexual contact) 10 – 90 days later.

Secondary



Latent

Latent Syphilis

After the rash fades, syphilis goes into hiding and doesn't show any symptoms. This can go on for any number of years. Even though the virus is hiding, a blood test will still detect syphilis.

Tertiary

