

## ***Chancroid***

### ***What is it?***

Chancroid is a bacterial disease that is spread only through sexual contact. Uncircumcised men are at much higher risk than circumcised men for getting chancroid from an infected partner. Chancroid is a risk factor for the HIV virus.

The disease can also be spread when pus-like fluid from the ulcer is moved to other parts of the body or to another person by contact such as touch.

### ***What are the symptoms?***

- Symptoms usually occur within 4-10 days from exposure. They rarely develop earlier than three days or later than 10 days.
- The ulcer begins as a tender, elevated bump, and then becomes a pus-filled, open sore with ragged edges.
- The ulcer is soft to the touch (unlike a syphilis chancre that is hard or rubbery). The term soft chancre is frequently used to describe the chancroid sore.
- The ulcers can be very painful in men but women are often unaware of them.
- Because chancroid is often asymptomatic in women, they may be unaware of the lesion(s).
- Painful lymph glands may occur in the groin, usually only on one side; but they can occur on both sides.

### ***How serious is it?***

Untreated chancroid often results in ulcers occurring on the genitals. Sometimes the ulcers persist for weeks or months.

### ***How is it diagnosed?***

Diagnosis is made by isolating the bacteria *Hemophilus ducreyi* in a culture from a genital ulcer. The chancre is often confused with syphilis, herpes or lymphogranuloma venereum; therefore, it is important that your health care provider rule these diseases out.

### *How is it treated?*

Chancroid may be successfully treated with certain antibiotics. Lesions and ulcers can be expected to heal within two weeks.

### *What about my partner?*

Chancroid is contagious as long as the infected person has any open sores. The open sores contain bacteria and any contact with these sores can result in infection.

**For more information about STDs, talk to your health care provider or call:**

**The State of Tennessee HIV/STD Hotline: 1-800-525-2437**

**(Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30 p.m. CST)**

**OR**

**The CDC National STD Hotline: 1-800-227-8922**

#### **Other Informational Links:**

**American Social Health Association**

<http://www.ashastd.org/>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov/STD/>

**E-Cards, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

<http://www2c.cdc.gov/ecards/index.asp?category=174>

**Get Yourself Tested**

<http://www.gytnow.org/>

**National Institute of Health Medline**

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/sexuallytransmitteddiseases.html>

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/faq/sexually-transmitted-infections.cfm>

**World Health Organization**

[http://www.who.int/topics/sexually\\_transmitted\\_infections/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/sexually_transmitted_infections/en/)