



DOCTOR DISCUSSION GUIDE

Managing Syphilis

Syphilis is a common STD (sexually transmitted disease) spread through vaginal, anal, and oral sex. While being diagnosed with herpes can feel intimidating, understanding this condition is the first step towards taking control of its symptoms. Asking the right questions during your conversation will help you know what to expect and how to better navigate your condition. Familiarize yourself with these common terms before your appointment to help facilitate your discussion.

Vocabulary to Know

Your doctor might mention these common terms. Here's what they mean.

Primary Stage	Sores develop at the original site of infection. These sores (usually painless) occur on or around the genitals, around the anus or in the rectum, or in or around the mouth.
Secondary Stage	Symptoms (which may be mild and unnoticed) include a skin rash, swollen lymph nodes, and fever.
Latent Stage	No signs or symptoms are present.
Tertiary Stage	Severe medical problems develop that may affect the heart, brain, and other organs of the body.
Congenital Syphilis	A disease that occurs when a mother with syphilis passes the infection on to her baby during her pregnancy.

