

# What infections am I at risk of when having sex?



## Anal Sex

Receptive anal intercourse without a condom carries a high risk of HIV infection. Pulling out before cumming/ejaculating will not protect you from HIV. And being the insertive partner during anal intercourse is also no protection. The virus can be passed on because blood might enter tiny cuts or the end of the penis. Also, HIV may be in pre-cum the clear fluid that can sometimes leak from the end of the penis when you have an erection.

Condoms when used properly prevent HIV from being passed on.

Other sexually transmitted infections that can be passed through anal intercourse include:

- Syphilis
- CMV
- Hepatitis
- Herpes virus
- Wart virus (HPV)
- Gonorrhoea
- Chlamydia

## Oral-anal sex (rimming)

Oral-anal sex is low risk for passing on or getting HIV, but many other serious illnesses are easily passed on in this way. Some people choose to lower their risk of getting these illnesses by using a barrier or dam to guard against infection.

Some infections that can be passed through oral-anal sex include:

- Syphilis
- CMV
- Hepatitis A
- Herpes virus
- Gonorrhoea
- Gut infections

This series of 12 fact sheets including:

- Male Anogenital anatomy
- Anogenital ulcer
- **What infections am I at risk of when having sex?**
- How to put on a condom?
- Male to Female Genital surgery
- Genital warts
- Hormone Therapy for Male to Female Transgender People
- Proctitis
- What can happen to me if I am raped?
- Scrotal swelling
- What does an STI & HIV check up involve?
- Urethral discharge



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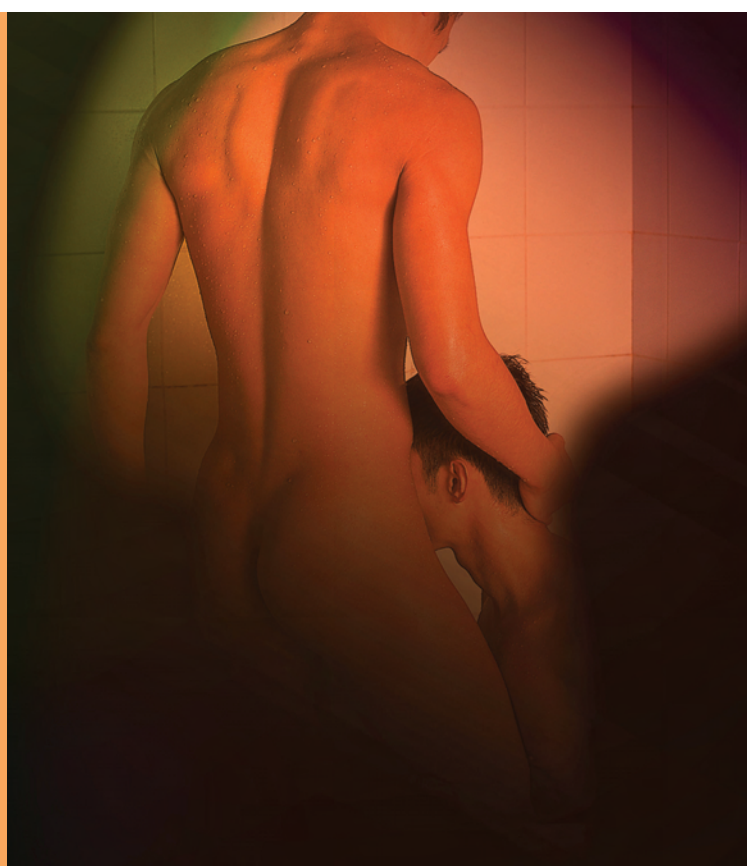
## Kissing

The mouth is wet and warm, so kissing is an easy way to transmit infections. Luckily, most of these infections are usually harmless – like colds, flu or sore throats – and we recover from them quickly and easily. But there are some serious infections you can get from kissing.

These include:

- Syphilis
- Herpes
- Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) (Causes glandular fever) and Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection
- Hepatitis B (although this is rare)

You cannot get or pass on HIV by kissing. HIV is spread by semen (cum), vaginal fluid or blood passing from a person with HIV into the body of another person. Kissing does not involve cum, vaginal fluid or blood, and so is safe. Saliva does not transmit HIV.



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The mouth is wet and warm, so kissing is an easy way to transmit infections.

## Oral intercourse (sucking)

Sucking is low risk of HIV infection, especially when compared to receptive anal intercourse without a condom. But it is not always totally safe.

You can lower your risk of HIV infection further by:

- Not letting your partner cum (ejaculate) in your mouth
- Using condoms when you suck someone's penis
- Avoiding brushing your teeth just before oral sex
- Checking that you don't have any cuts or sores in your mouth by rinsing with salty water or mouthwash

Other sexually transmitted infections that can be passed on by oral intercourse include:

- Syphilis
- CMV
- Hepatitis B and A
- Herpes
- Gonorrhoea
- Chlamydia