

# HEPATITIS B

## Cause:

- A virus which attacks your liver.

## The transmission:

- Sexual contact and by sharing needles and syringes in drug use.
- The virus is found in the blood, the saliva, the semen and the vaginal fluid.

## Symptoms:

- They will appear between 2 and 4 months after the person is infected.
- Extreme tiredness, lack of energy, nausea, stomach ache, sometimes pain in the joints and fever.
- After these symptoms have appeared, the whites of the eyes and the skin turns yellowish.
- The urine turns darkish brown and the stools become very light coloured.

## The test:

- Several blood tests and physical examinations.

## The treatment:

- Unfortunately, drugs to treat Hepatitis B have yet to be developed.

## Possible complications:

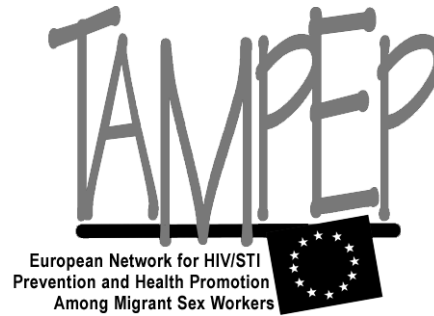
- A chronic inflammation of the liver, which could lead to a cirrhosis and cancer of the liver.

## DON'T FORGET!

- Do not have oral and anal sex without a condom because you may catch a venereal disease, HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis B.
- Attend regular medical controls.
- Take medicines only if prescribed by a doctor.
- Never interrupt a medical treatment
- As soon as you notice something unusual, you should go to the doctor.



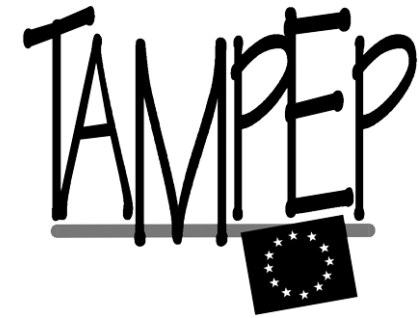
**ATTENTION!**  
You can be vaccinated  
against Hepatitis B!  
Prevent yourself: it is much  
more easier to get Hepatitis  
B than HIV/AIDS!



European Network for HIV/STI  
Prevention and Health Promotion  
Among Migrant Sex Workers

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**CHANGING  
YOUR BODY**

**STI, AIDS  
&  
HEPATITIS B**

**ENGLISH**

**For more information:**

## VENERAL DISEASES

### THE BIGGEST DANGER: HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis B

- Since the anus and the intestines can get injured very easily, the risk of catching one of these diseases is very high!
- The only way to prevent them is to use a condom each time you have anal or oral sex!

## SYPHILIS

**Cause:** Bacteria

### Symptoms:

- First phase: small, hard and painless sores in the anus or mouth, painless knots in the groins.
- Second phase: 1 to 6 months after the sexual contact: knots on your armpits or neck, red spots and knots all over your body, fever loss of hair, small pimples in the palm of the hands.
- Third phase: more than 10 years after the sexual contact: wounds on your skin, paralysis of your internal organs, loss of sensibility on the extremities, loss of your vision, insanity.

### How to cure it:

- Syphilis should be treated as quick as possible, as soon as the first symptoms appears.
- It can be treated with several shots of penicillin.
- Go to the doctor for a blood test. That is the only way to diagnose and check this illness.

## GONORRHOEA

**Cause:** Bacteria

### Symptoms:

- Yellow discharge, itching, redness in the anus.
- Cramping, painful bowels movements, slimy and bleeding bowels.
- Burning sensations while urinating, pus discharge from the urethra.

### How to cure it:

- Go to the doctor as soon as possible
- Finish the medical treatment prescribed
- Avoid sexual intercourse
- Your steady partner should have the same medical treatment.

## CLAMYDIA

**Cause:** Bacteria

### Symptoms:

- Pain in the lower part of the belly.
- The same symptoms as with gonorrhoea, but more discrete.

### How to cure it:

- Go to the doctor to receive the proper medicine. Do a regular medical control and inform your partner.

## HERPES

**Cause:** Virus

### Symptoms:

- Painful discharge from the rectum
- Fever, general stomach-ache, muscle and nerve pain, cramping bowel movements
- Small painful blisters at the anus
- The blisters may disappear in a few days but the virus will remain in your body.

### How to cure it:

- Go to the doctor for a treatment and to control it.
- Antibiotics are useless against virus.

## WARTS

**Cause:** Virus

### Symptoms:

- Painless warts at the anus or penis; smear infections could lead to closure of rectum

### How to cure it:

- Go to the doctor as soon as possible for a treatment and control it.

## TRICHOMONAS

**Cause:** Parasites

### Symptoms:

- Green and foamy discharge
- Itchiness, discharge
- Itchiness during urination

### How to cure it:

Go to a doctor and get a gel or a cream.

## AIDS

**Cause:** a virus called HIV

### The transmission can be through:

- the blood, the semen and the vaginal fluid.

### It can happen by:

- having anal sex without a condom
- getting semen in the mouth
- sharing needles and syringes in drug use
- unhygienic tattooing
- blood transfusions
- infected mother to a child during pregnancy

### Symptoms:

- Severe tiredness, night sweats, fever, extreme weight loss, persistent diarrhoea.
- Red/purple-brown marks on the skin or the mouth, persistent herpes and fungal infections.

### The test:

- Only a blood test can determine if antibodies of HIV virus are in the blood.
- It is a normal blood test that takes about 10 days to get the result.
- If the result is positive, which means that the person was infected by the HIV virus, there will be done a second test to confirm the result.
- The test can not be done until three to four months after the person may have been infected with the virus.

### The treatment:

- Unfortunately, there is as yet no cure for AIDS.
- Some drugs can lengthen the life of a person with AIDS, but they will not help him/her to survive.

### It is safe to:

- be with a person who has AIDS or who is HIV positive.
- shake hands, touch their skin, give them a kiss, touch their sweat or tears.
- share glasses and plates, the same bed and the toilet.

### ATTENTION!

- Have sex only with condoms.
- For oral sex, use the thinner ones.
- For anal sex, use the thicker ones.
- For your own safety, buy always condoms and lubricants of good quality.
- Have safe-sex (with condoms), particularly if you are HIV positive.