



## Myths about STIs

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) refer to diseases that are transmitted through body contact during sex. How much do you know about STIs? Do you agree with the following statements?

1. Condoms can well protect a person against STIs.
2. STIs is transmitted through sexual contact only.
3. All STIs can be cured by medications.
4. People with STIs infection would not need medical treatment if symptoms had disappeared,
5. People will never be infected by STIs when they experience their first sexual intercourse in life.



**In fact.....,**

The following will explain what's wrong with the statements.



1. Although using a condom reduces the chances of becoming infected with STIs, it is not entirely effective. Condoms which are expired, broken, cannot fully cover the penis or any misuse of condoms, may lead to higher risk of infection of STIs or pregnancy. There are no advices that can completely eliminate you from the risk of STIs infection yet.
2. Besides sexual activities, some parasites like Pubic Lice, live on pubic hair or away from the body, and therefore can be spread to others through sharing of underpants, beddings with a person who has them.

3. Many of the STIs can be treated, but people with HIV and Herpes Virus-2 infection cannot be completely cured yet, and serious complication may develop in years.



4. Be noted that some symptoms appear at the later stage of illness, such as ulcers in mouth, itchy or pain at the place where bacteria entered, a frequent need to urinate and burning sensations during urination, etc. Carriers may have no symptoms, or have mild symptoms that are difficult to be recognized, or thought they are fully recovered because of the absence of symptoms after a period of time. If left untreated, viruses might be passed to sexual partners through sexual contact. Some of the STIs are fatal.

5. Your first sexual intercourse cannot eliminate you from the risk of infection of STIs. Have safer and protected sex, limit the number of sex partners, and understand backgrounds of your sexual partners are ways to minimize the risk from STIs.

