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syphilis:

a sexually transmitted infection caused by spirochete bacteria called *treponema pallidum* that can cause permanent damage.

SYPHILIS

Syphilis has been called “the great imitator” because so many of the signs and symptoms are so similar to those of other diseases.

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

Syphilis is passed from person to person by contact with a syphilis sore or by bodily fluids. Sores can occur on the external genitals (penis and vulva), vagina, anus or in the rectum, lips, or mouth. Syphilis is passed during condom-less sex with an infected person. Pregnant women can pass it to their babies, if not cured before delivery.

TRANSMISSION?

Syphilis is not spread through contact with toilet seats, water, shared clothing, eating utensils or other ways. **It can only spread through bodily fluids.**

HOW CAN I TELL?

Many people infected with syphilis do not have any signs for years, yet could have unseen permanent damage. Syphilis can cause sores and rashes, but can look different and disappear quickly. The only way to be sure of you and your partner’s status is with a syphilis blood test.

TREATMENT?

Syphilis is easy to cure with antibiotics when done early. Late treatment will prevent further damage, but will **not repair damage already done.** Learn more at:

iknowmine.org