

#MADEEASY



SYPHILIS





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- **Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by spirochete *Treponema pallidum*.**
- **The disease progresses through distinct stages (primary, secondary, latent, tertiary), each with characteristic dermatological and systemic manifestations.**
- **Without treatment, syphilis can lead to serious long-term complications affecting multiple organ systems.**

Easy-to-Understand example

- **Syphilis first knocks on your door with a quiet, small signal—a painless papercut that doesn't seem alarming.**
- **After a while, they come back with a bigger display, bringing a rash and other odd symptom.**
- **Then, they seem to disappear completely, like they've left for good, only to reappear years later, causing serious, long-term damage to your body.**
- **The earlier you catch it and kick them out (treat the infection), the better you can prevent lasting damage.**

Stages of Syphilis

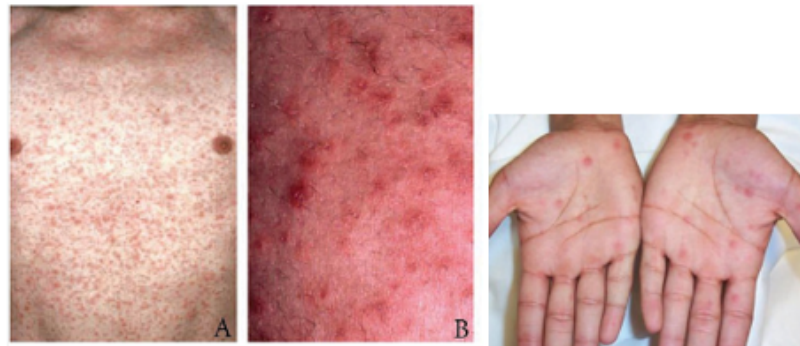
- **Primary Syphilis**





STAGES OF SYPHILIS

- Presents with a **chancre**, a single **painless** ulcer that develops at the site of infection.
- The chancre has a clean base and firm, raised edges.
- It **heals spontaneously** within 3-6 weeks even without treatment.
- It is usually on the **genitals, anus or mouth**.
- Imagine getting a paper cut that doesn't hurt much, disappearing on its own.
- **Secondary Syphilis**



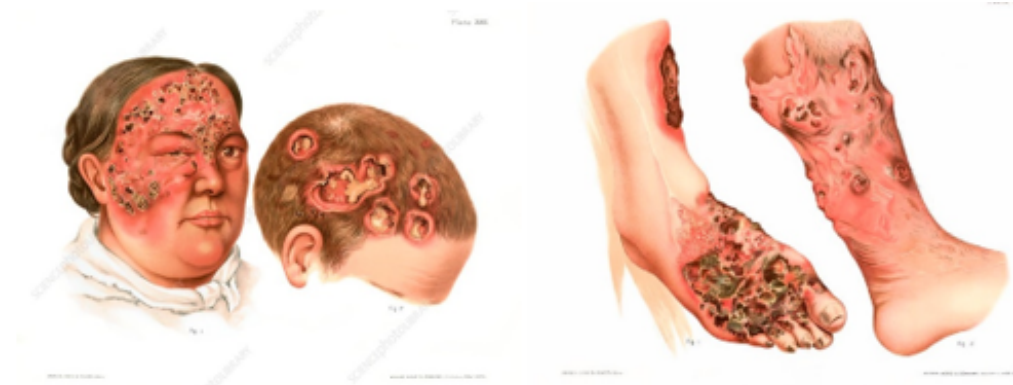
- Occurs weeks to months after the initial infection if untreated.
- **Rash:**
- **Red-coloured, non-itchy** rash typically appears on the **palms and soles** but can cover the entire body.
- **Painless, greyish-white plaques** in the mouth or genital region.
- **Condyломата Lata:**
- **Moist, wart-like lesions** in the **genital and perianal regions**.
- Other symptoms may include **fever, lymphadenopathy and malaise**.
- **Imagine freckles on palms and soles.**
- **Latent Syphilis**
- A **"hidden" stage** with no visible symptoms, but bacteria remain in the body.
- This stage can last for years.
- **Early latent syphilis (within 1 year of infection)** can still cause relapses of secondary symptoms, while late latent syphilis remains asymptomatic.
- It's like a dormant volcano, lying quietly underground, waiting for the right conditions to erupt again.





STAGES OF SYPHILIS

- **Tertiary Syphilis**



- **If untreated, syphilis can progress to this severe stage.**
- **It affects organs like the heart, brain, and bones, typically after years of latency.**
- **Gummas:**
- **Soft, tumour-like growths that can form anywhere on the body, often on the *skin, liver or bones*.**
- **Neurosyphilis or cardiovascular syphilis can also occur, leading to serious complications.**





STAGES OF SYPHILIS

- *It's like rust slowly corroding metal over time, weakening the structure of the body until it crumbles into serious damage after years of unnoticed decay.*

Diagnosis

- **Darkfield Microscopy:** Visualization of *Treponema pallidum* from lesion exudate (used in primary or secondary stages).
- **Serologic Tests:**
 - **Nontreponemal Tests:** VDRL and RPR, used for screening.
 - **Treponemal Tests:** FTA-ABS and TPPA, used to confirm diagnosis

Treatment

- **Penicillin G:** The first-line treatment for all stages of syphilis.
- For early stages (primary, secondary, early latent), a **single intramuscular dose of Benzathine Penicillin G** is typically curative.
- For late latent or tertiary syphilis, longer or multiple courses of penicillin are necessary.
- **Doxycycline:** An alternative for penicillin-allergic patients (not recommended during pregnancy).

Prevention

- **Safe Sex Practices:** Consistent use of condoms and regular STI screening, especially in high-risk populations.
- **Treating sexual partners** to prevent reinfection and further spread of syphilis.





PREVENTION

Stage	Characteristics	Clinical Features	Time Frame
Primary Syphilis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Painless chancere at the site of infection (genital, oral, anal) - Clean base, firm raised edges - Heals spontaneously in 3-6 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solitary ulcer (chancere) - Regional lymphadenopathy 	~3 weeks after exposure
Secondary Syphilis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generalized non-itchy rash - Rash involves palms and soles - Mucous patches in mouth/genitals - Condylomata lata 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red rash on palms and soles - Wart-like condylomata lata (moist lesions) - Mucous patches (gray-white plaques) - Fever, malaise, lymphadenopathy 	6 weeks to 6 months after primary
Tertiary Syphilis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serious systemic damage after latent phase - Involves skin, bones, heart, and CNS - Gummas (granulomatous tumors) - Neurosyphilis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gummas: soft, non-cancerous growths on skin or internal organs - Cardiovascular syphilis (aortitis) - Neurosyphilis (dementia, stroke, tabes dorsalis) - Severe complications of untreated disease 	Years after secondary if untreated

