



# Sexually Transmitted Infections that Cannot be Cured



Infection	Risks/Complications	Method of Transfer	Treatment/Comments
<b>Herpes</b> Diagnosed by culture of lesion or vaginal secretions.	<b>Mom:</b> Can have blisters/sores in genital area only once or she may have outbreaks every once in a while. She may not know she is carrying the virus.  <b>Baby:</b> Has poor energy, fever, poor weight gain, infection of skin, eyes, mouth. There can be severe brain injury or death.	Can transfer during birth.	<b>Mom:</b> No cure. Antiviral drugs are used to treat outbreaks. If herpes sore is in genital area at time of labour, a caesarean birth is recommended. This is to prevent transfer to the baby.  Avoid intercourse if a lesion is present. Avoid oral sex if your partner has a cold sore. Using condoms during sex helps to reduce the risk of transmission, but it is not a guarantee that you won't get herpes.  <b>Baby:</b> Antiviral drugs can be given if baby develops neonatal herpes.  Make sure people always wash their hands before touching your baby, and never let anyone with a cold sore kiss, nuzzle, or hold your baby.
<b>Hepatitis B</b> Diagnosed by blood test. (Also spread by contact with infected blood.)	<b>Mom:</b> Carrier for life. Risk for liver disease and liver cancer later in life.  <b>Baby:</b> Without treatment, will become a carrier for life.	Can transfer during birth.	<b>Mom:</b> If exposed during pregnancy, early treatment with Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) vaccine and Hep B vaccine can prevent disease.  <b>Baby:</b> HBIG and Hep B vaccine at birth if mother (or other caretaker) is a carrier and follow-up vaccinations can prevent disease.
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)</b> Diagnosed by blood test.	<b>Mom:</b> HIV can develop into AIDS. Adults with AIDS have a shortened lifespan.	Can cross placenta during pregnancy and can transfer to baby during birth. Is also possible to transfer through breastfeeding.	<b>Mom:</b> No cure. Treatment with antiviral drugs during pregnancy and during labour to reduce risk of passing virus to baby.  <b>Baby:</b> Antiviral medication given for six weeks after birth.