

### What is a Chancroid?

Chancroid, (SHANG-kroid) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by the bacteria *Haemophilis ducreyi* that causes sores on the genitals. Chancroid was once common in the United States, but now it is rare. It is more common in tropical countries and seen more often in men than in women.

### How is Chancroid spread?

Chancroid is spread by sexual contact with an infected individual. The bacteria are more likely to invade the sexual organs at the point of a pre-existing injury, such as a small cut or scratch.

### What are the signs and symptoms of Chancroid?

The first sign of infection is usually the appearance of one or more sores or raised bumps on the genital organs. They are surrounded by a narrow red border which soon becomes filled with pus and eventually ruptures, leaving a painful open sore. The ulcers may bleed easily if touched. In 50% of untreated cases, the chancroid bacteria infect the lymph nodes in the groin.

### How long after infection do symptoms appear?

Symptoms typically appear within four to seven days after exposure. Within 5 to 10 days of the appearance of primary sores, the glands on one side (or both sides) of the groin become enlarged, hard and painful and may eventually rupture.

### Who is most at risk?

Any person who is sexually active may be at risk for chancroid. Very few people are diagnosed in the U.S. each year with this infection. Most people in the U.S. who are diagnosed with chancroid have traveled outside the country to areas where the infection is more common.

### What type of health problems are caused by Chancroid?

Untreated chancroid conditions may cause permanent scarring on the genitals.

### How is Chancroid diagnosed?

A diagnosis based on a person's medical history and physical examination is often inaccurate. There are no blood tests for chancroid. Therefore, anyone who has genital, anal, or perianal (area around the anus) ulcers should be tested for other types of STDs such as syphilis, genital herpes, and HIV by a healthcare provider.

### How is Chancroid treated?

Chancroid can get better on its own. However, some people may have months of painful ulcers and draining. Successful antibiotic treatment usually clears up the lesions quickly with very little scarring and prevents spread to others. In advanced cases, scarring can result, despite successful treatment. Symptoms should resolve in about 2 weeks.

## How can Chancroid be prevented?

Not having sex is the only sure way to avoid getting chancroid. Otherwise, limited the number of one's sexual partners reduces the change of being exposed. Using condoms correctly with all partners will decrease the possibility of becoming infected with chancroid or any other STD.

## Where can I get more information?

- Your personal healthcare provider
- Utah Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 801-538-6191
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

