# Syphilis

is a sexually transmitted disease caused by *Treponema pallidum*, an anaerobic filamentous spirochete.



# History of syphilis

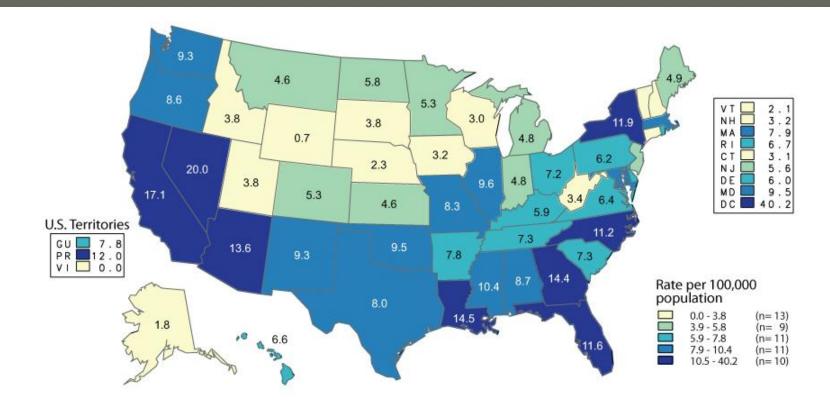
Syphilis was first described during French invasion on the Siege of Naples in 1495 and was know as "French diseases". • The term "syphilis" was first applied in 1530 by the Italian physician Girolamo Fracastoro.



A medical illustration attributed to Albrecht Dürer (1496) depicting a person with syphilis. Here, the disease is believed to have astrological causes.

- For long time syphilis was a widespread problem and there was no safe and effective treatment.
- In the 1940's, cases of syphilis started decreasing rapidly after the widespread availability of penicillin, an inexpensive antibiotic.
- Syphilis has been on the rise since 2005 and reached its highest reported rate in 2016 with 27,814 cases were reported, a 17.6% increase over 2015

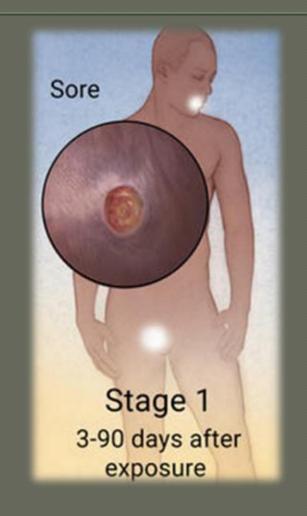
Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Rates of Reported Cases by State, United States and Outlying Areas, 2017



The overall rate of reported P&S syphilis cases in the 50 most populous metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) was 12.1 cases per 100,000 population in 2017, which represents a 9.0% increase since 2016 (11.1 cases per 100,000 population).

#### Primary stage

 Sore/chancre found in genital area or mouth
 Painless
 Most contagious



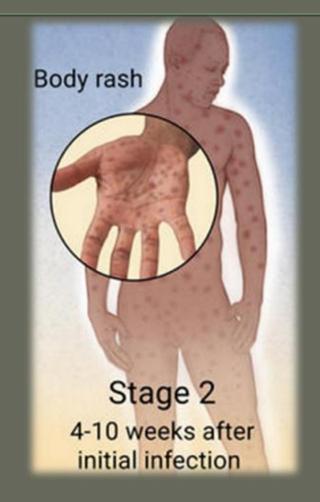
# Primary stage

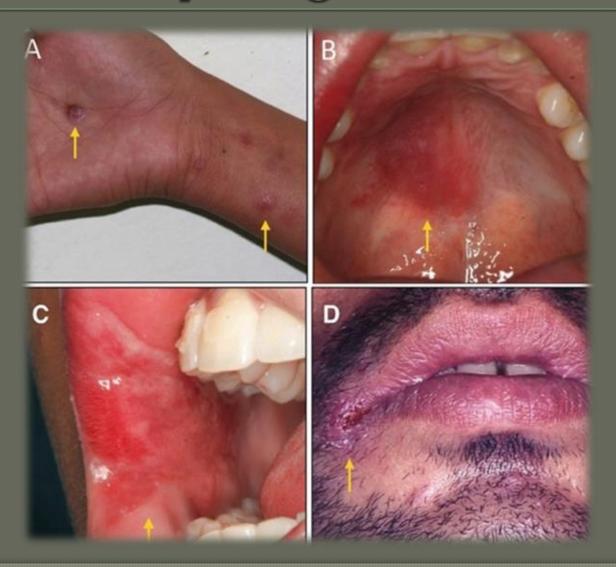






Skin rash Mucous membrane lesions • Fever, sore throat, headache, swollen gland, weight loss, fatigue Most contagious



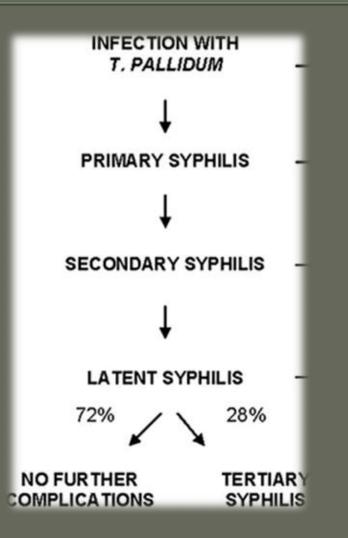






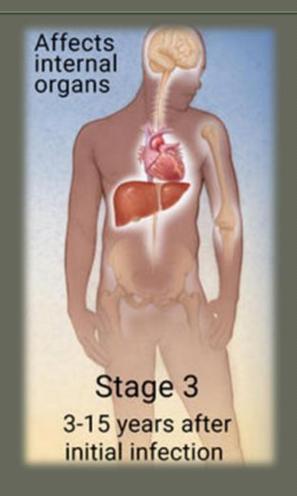
#### Asymptomatic stage

• Also call latent or hidden stage • Can last for years No signs or symptoms Not every person will experience this stage



#### **Tertiary stage**

Last most severe stage
Permanent damage to organs
Damage of bones
If untreated results in death



#### Tertiary stage

#### Skulls destroyed by late stage syphilis

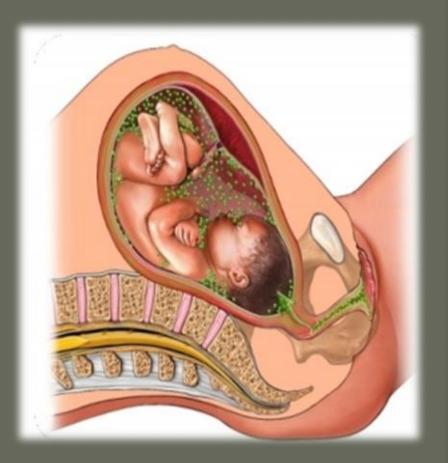






## **Congenital Syphilis**

A congenital form of syphilis can also be spread through vertical transmission from mother to her unborn child or during childbirth to her baby. This form of syphilis can result in serious health complications, including stillbirth or death.



Syphilitic hypoplasia Hutchinson incisors

Caused by congenital syphilis
Smaller
Widely spaced
Central notches on incisal surface
Peg-shaped incisors





#### Syphilitic hypoplasia Mulberry molars

Caused by congenital syphilis
 Globular enamel growths







#### **Congenital Syphilis**

 Perforation of Palate



#### Mucous patches



# Spread of syphilis in the dental settings

- Syphilis can be spread during the practice of dental hygienist by direct contact with mucosal lesions of primary and secondary syphilis or blood and saliva from infected patients.
- If oral lesions are present the patient can not be treated.
- Reference for further evaluation should be suggested.

