

Section 14.2: Review Answers

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1. Examples of Viral and Bacterial STIs

Viral STIs	Bacterial STIs
HIV/AIDS hepatitis (A, B, and C) genital herpes HPV	chlamydia gonorrhea syphilis

- PID (pelvic inflammatory disease) is a disease that occurs in women; it is caused by undetected Chlamydia that has spread to the cervix and oviducts. PID is painful and can lead to the build-up of scar tissue in the oviducts and open sores on the cervix. This may lead to infertility (oviduct damage) and/or an increased risk of acquiring HIV. Chlamydia and PID also pose risks to babies who come into contact with the disease during birth, including potential respiratory infections and eye infections. PID can also arise if gonorrhea goes untreated.
- A woman who is infected with an STI can present numerous risks to her baby. Diseases can be passed to the baby through the placenta (e.g., HIV, hepatitis B), during birth (e.g., HIV, genital herpes, Chlamydia, gonorrhea), through breast milk (e.g., HIV).
- (a)** A person who is infected with an STI but does not present any symptoms will not visit a doctor for treatment. While they wait, the infection may become more serious, progressing to PID, infections, cancer of the cervix (women), tumors on the vulva, vagina, anus or penis, or infertility.

(b) The public health risk of the asymptomatic individual infected with an STI is that they may unknowingly infect other people if they engage in unsafe sex practices or, in the case of pregnant women, pass the STI to their babies.
- Look for the following key points: Both viral and bacterial STIs have health consequences, the severity of which increases as the infection progresses untreated and

depending on the type of infection. It is true that the viral infections cannot be cured, only managed, and there is a high likelihood that death will result with some viral infections (HIV and hepatitis) or that cancer may develop (HPV). Bacterial infections, while curable, are more likely to go undetected, increasing the possibility that they will be spread unknowingly, as well as the possibility that they won't be detected until they have progressed to the more damaging PID, which can cause scarring and infertility in women, or infect a baby during birth. In addition, many bacterial diseases are becoming resistant to current antibiotics. The consequences of either form of STI make it preferable to avoid both.

- (a)** Points supporting the teaching of abstinence: abstinence (from oral, anal, and vaginal sex, and the sharing of needles) is the only way to guarantee the prevention of transmission of STIs. Points supporting the teaching of safe sex practices: students may argue that individuals will engage in sexual practices, so it is better to be educated about safe sex practices to avoid transmission of STIs (as well as unwanted pregnancies). Students can evaluate the arguments from an individual point of view, a societal point of view, or even a government viewpoint. It is in the best interest of society and government to teach people about the effects and transmission of STIs so that healthcare does not have to deal with large volumes of transmissions.

(b) Health practitioners can design education campaigns that respect the views of those advocating abstinence and safe sex practices by presenting the facts of each and allowing the recipients of the information to make their own decision. This can be done by avoiding nuanced language or judgmental, subjective conclusions.