



MINISTERO  
DELL'INTERNO

# Syphilis

It is a disease caused by a germ, *Treponema pallidum*, which is transmitted via infected secretions.

**The lesions produced by syphilis are mainly located in the genitals, anus-rectum or mouth.**

The disease develops across various phases or stages. In the initial phase (*Syphilis primaria*), it manifests for the most part as an ulcer commonly located in the cervix, the penis or the anal area, and associated with enlargement of the lymph glands close to the infection side, such as the inguinal lymph glands.

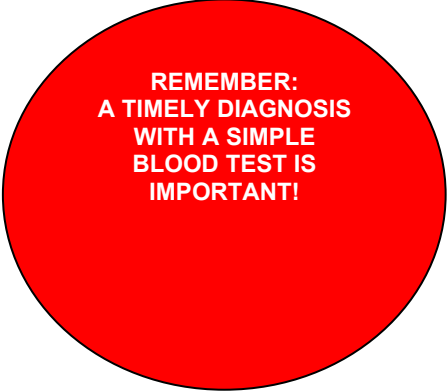
People do not always realise the presence of such lesions because, quite often, they are neither painful nor itchy. Syphilis can be easily transmitted already at this early stage of the pathology.

**In its more advanced forms, skin eruptions might appear, and later damages to bones, liver, heart and brain.**

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SEARCH FOR **SYPHILIS**

The infection contracted during pregnancy or childbirth can cause abortion, neonatal death, premature delivery of low-weight newborn and/or others affected by generalised illness with damages to the nervous system, deafness or bone malformations.

**THE DIAGNOSIS IS MADE WITH A SIMPLE BLOOD TEST. SYPHILIS IS TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS.**



**REMEMBER:  
A TIMELY DIAGNOSIS  
WITH A SIMPLE  
BLOOD TEST IS  
IMPORTANT!**