



## Brief Information about the sexually transmitted diseases that we check for

### Syphilis

Syphilis (lues) is caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. Syphilis is mainly transmitted by unprotected sex, including vaginal, oral and anal sex.

You can protect yourself from syphilis by **using a condom always and the right way**. A syphilis infection is diagnosed by means of a blood test that shows particular proteins (antibodies) in the blood (for ex. a TPPA test).

### AIDS

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is caused by the **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** and is transmitted by unprotected sexual contact and also by sharing hypodermic needles used to inject intravenous drugs.

The most effective way to protect yourself from HIV is to use a condom **always and the right way**. HIV is diagnosed by means of a blood test.

### Gonorrhea (tripper)

Gonorrhea (tripper) is caused by the bacterium *Neisseriae gonorrhoeae* (Gonococcus). Gonorrhea is transmitted almost exclusively by unprotected sexual contact.

Gonorrhea can be prevented by **using a condom always and the right way**. In persons without symptoms gonorrhea can be diagnosed from a swab from the throat, urinary tract, vagina or rectum (this is called a PCR Test).

### Tuberculosis – TB (consumption)

TB is not transmitted by sexual contact. Tuberculosis is spread through the air when people who have active TB in their lungs cough, spit, speak, or sneeze. If it is not recognized and treated early, it can become a serious illness – usually involving the lungs.

## Other sexually transmitted diseases

### Chlamydia Infection

A chlamydia infection of the sex organs and is caused by the bacterium *Chlamydiae trachomatis*. The genital chlamydia infection is spread by unprotected sexual contact.

A chlamydia infection can be prevented by **using a condom always and the right way**. A genital chlamydia infection can be diagnosed from a swab from the urinary tract or the vagina.

### Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is an inflammation of the liver that is caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). The most common route of infection with hepatitis B in adults is unprotected sexual contact.

Infection can be prevented by **vaccination (Impfung)** (the basic vaccination consists of three shots. Booster shots (Auffrischungsimpfungen) are given after a checkup to determine the concentration of antibodies in the person's blood). A blood test will show if a person is infected with the hepatitis B virus.

### Genital Warts

Genital warts – also known as *Condylomata acuminata* – are a virus in the genital and anal area. They are caused by an infection with so-called human papillomavirus (HPV) and are spread mainly by unprotected sexual contact. The human papillomavirus that causes genital warts increases the risk for malignant tumors in women, for example cervical cancer.

Condoms do not give full protection against infection with HPV. An HPV vaccination (HPV Impfung) only protects you before you are exposed to the virus. Please speak to your doctor for more information.

### Trichomoniasis

Trichomoniasis is an infection with the parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*, which is found all over the world. It is spread by unprotected sexual contact. The symptoms are inflammation of the mucous membranes of the genitals and the urinary tract.

Trichomoniasis can be treated with special antibiotics given by your doctor.

## Links & Counselling

### **iBUS - Innsbruck Counselling and Support for Sex Workers (iBUS – Innsbrucker Beratung und Unterstützung für Sexarbeiterinnen)**

iBUS offers confidential and anonymous counselling in social, legal and health matters for sex workers or former sex workers to meet their special needs.

Schöpfstraße 19 6020 Innsbruck Telephone: +43 (0) 6604757345 E-Mail: [ibus@aep.at](mailto:ibus@aep.at)  
<http://aep.at/beratungsstelle/ibus/>

### **Rahab Health Counseling for Sex Workers - How to Get Out and Stay Out of Prostitution (Rahab Gesundheitsberatung für Sex-Dienstleister/innen - Ausstiegsberatung)**

**A Caritas social worker offers sex workers information on health matters and social insurance.**

In the RAHAB Project Caritas offers help and support for sex workers in the Innsbruck area. The aim of our project is to provide important information to sex workers.

Every Thursday starting at 2:00 pm one of our social workers is available at the compulsory health examinations held at the **Health Office (Gesundheitsamt Innsbruck)**. The social worker provides easy access to information on many questions that sex workers have.

**Gertraud Gscheidlinger**, Heiliggeiststraße 16 6020 Innsbruck;

Telephone: 0676 873 063 30 [g.gscheidlinger.caritas@dibk.at](mailto:g.gscheidlinger.caritas@dibk.at)  
<https://www.caritas-tirol.at/hilfe-angebote/menschen-in-not/rahab-gesundheitsberatung-fuer-sex-dienstleisterinnen/>

### **medcar(e) – social and medical basic care**

**medcar(e) offers medical and social work support to people who have no access to medical care. The medcar(e) bus visits many parts of town and there is also a doctor's office near the Innsbruck Railroad Station (Hauptbahnhof).**

**Doctor's Office at Südbahnstraße 1, 6020 Innsbruck:**

MO 3:45 - 6:00 pm

WED 9:00 - 10:00 am, after that at Teestube, Kapuzinergasse 43, 6020 Innsbruck

**Medcar(e) Bus (bus stationed in the heart of Innsbruck):**

FR from 6:00 pm

### **Insurance – Get Your Own Insurance**

Anyone who does not have compulsory medical insurance (Krankenversicherung), can take out their own medical insurance – if they live in Austria.

**TGKK - Tiroler Gebietskrankenkasse**

Klara-Pörtl-Weg 2, 6020 Innsbruck

Telephone: +43 (0) 59160 – 0 Fax: +43 (0) 59160 – 300 E-Mail: [tgkk@tgkk.at](mailto:tgkk@tgkk.at)

<http://www.tgkk.at/portal27/portal/tgkkportal/content/contentWindow?contentid=10007.720002&action=2>

### **Contraception – Preventive Medicine**

Your family doctor or your gynecologist will be happy to tell you about the many ways (natural, hormonal, barrier contraceptives, etc.) to prevent an unwanted pregnancy or to protect yourself against illness (such as vaccinations against HPV and hepatitis B).