



SHARP News



Oral Sex – What are the Risks?

SHARP has posted this new *SHARPFact* factsheet on the SHARP website.

SHARPFacts are 1 page (double sided) fact sheets on STDs, HIV, condoms, and family planning. They provide basic, evidence based information on these subjects. These free fact sheets may be downloaded and printed for local distribution. SHARP Facts are provided in Adobe (.pdf) format.

An excerpt from *Oral Sex - What are the Risks?*:

“Oral Sex is Not Considered Safe Sex. Like all sexual activity, oral sex carries some risk of infection with a sexually transmitted disease (STD), including Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), particularly when one partner or the other is known to be infected, when either partner’s STD/HIV status is unknown, and/or when either partner is not monogamous or injects drugs. **Numerous studies have demonstrated that oral sex can result in the transmission of HIV and other STDs.** Abstaining from oral, anal, and vaginal sex all together or having sex with a mutually monogamous uninfected partner are the only ways that people can be completely protected from the transmission of HIV and other STDs.

Oral sex with someone who is infected with HIV is **not** risk-free. Some people have indicated that they are less concerned about HIV because of new treatments and they are being less careful to avoid getting infected. But, in spite of the new treatments available to help the body manage an HIV infection, HIV remains a serious, lifelong disease that is best to prevent.

The likelihood of getting an STD/HIV from an infected person varies significantly depending on the type of exposure or contact involved. The risk of becoming infected through unprotected (without a condom) oral sex is lower than that of unprotected anal and vaginal sex. However, even a lower risk activity can become an important way people get infected if it is done often enough....”

You can download **the entire factsheet** at
<http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/downloads/hp/oralsex.pdf>