

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

(Venereal Diseases)

These are infectious diseases usually transmitted by sexual contact. They consist of the following:

24.1 Gonorrhea

This is an infection by a bacterium called gonococcus. It is spread by sexual intercourse and produces symptoms in both the male and the female.

In the male it produces dribbling of pus from the tip of the penis, as well as burning and painful urination. Obstruction of the urethra may sometimes take place.

In the females it usually produces few symptoms and this helps spread the disease. However, at times the infection spreads to the ovaries and its tubes and causes inflammation, abscesses and infertility.

Babies born to such mothers may also develop a severe form of gonorrhoeal conjunctivitis, which may lead to blindness if not treated adequately. The treatment of gonorrhoea is with high doses of Inj. Penicillin. Due to its use gonorrhoea has become rare nowadays.

24.2 Syphilis

This is a sexually transmitted disease due to the bacterium *Treponima Pallidus*. For a few months after infection there are no symptoms. Then appear skin rashes and genital ulcers, which usually heal by themselves. If left untreated then the final stage of the disease occurs, which consists of inflammatory complexes accompanied by destruction of the tissues in all parts of the body including skin, vital organs, as well as brain and spinal cord, resulting in severe symptoms.



The illness is treatable in the first and second phases but not in the third phase. Inj. Penicillin is the treatment of choice and has much reduced its spread. Blood tests i.e. Kahn and VDRL are used to detect its presence in the primary stage.

24.3 Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome

Infection is usually via sexual intercourse although the infection (Human Immuno Deficiency Virus) can be spread via all of the bodily fluids i.e. semen, tears, saliva and blood. Besides sex, sharing needles and blood transfusion also facilitates the transfer of the infection. Sometimes the infection has been known to be spread by sharing a barber's tools and dental surgeons' instruments.

In western countries (and others that copy their culture) sexual promiscuity in the general population is leading to the spread of this illness. Prostitution is legal in most non-Muslim countries and is a great source of spread of this disease.

When infected the person may not have any symptoms for many years but the virus (H.I.V) can be detected in the blood by a special ELISA Test. However, the person spreads the infection even at this stage.

This virus attacks and renders ineffective the immune cells of the body that attack the invading germs and thus end the disease caused by them. When the immune cells are not working then even simple infections like cold and flu can become fatal illnesses. Thus these patients become victims of all kinds of serious diseases like Pneumonia, Tuberculosis and even Cancer.



The drugs developed for this illness only delay its downward spiral therefore prevention is the only recourse open. Needles should not be shared. They should be broken after one use. Blood used for transfusion should be screened for H.I.V. But most important of all prostitution should be stamped out. It is degrading for women to be involved in this profession and women should be protected from this kind of exploitation. They should be provided the necessities of life by the male relatives or failing that by the state for that is the main reason women indulge in this activity.

In most countries women are abducted, sold and forced to stay in this trade. They would welcome their freedom from such places of suffering and torture.

I cannot conceive of any woman who would enjoy such a situation where they are exploited, forced and exposed to mal-treatment, sadism and venereal diseases. The first and foremost work for human rights, specially women rights, is to free the women all over the world who are forced into prostitution by financial circumstance or by brutal pimps. The most effective step is to declare it illegal and then to mount a crusade against those that defy this law.

Islam has given extra protection to women to prevent them from becoming victims of those who abduct and force women into prostitution. Thus Islam has made it compulsory for the male relatives to accompany them when they travel. Similarly the guardian must protect young girls when they are being married so that they are not pushed into such a situation where they will be forced into prostitution. Moreover, women are given protection in the home as the men do all the outside work for bringing in the bread and butter and for providing all the other needs.

Immodest dress and free mixing with males for recreation is also prohibited, as is alcohol and other drugs, which may result in removing inhibitions and creating an atmosphere of sexual abandon and sexual exploitation. Islam allows (rather the prophet⁽¹⁾ insisted) that the man see his



proposed bride so that if he likes her there is a greater likelihood of a happy life together. However, the going out of men and women (dating and courting) and having recreation of all sorts together, including alcohol, dancing, and sex, is completely prohibited as this is the starting point of illicit, dangerous sex and sexually transmitted diseases including H.I.V. and A.I.D.S. The only way of preventing these diseases is by having sex between husband and wife only. The proposal of using condoms and the so-called “Dry Sex” is poor prevention.

Not only prostitutes need emancipation but also the single women of the western world (and others who copy them) need to be free from this compulsion to be the sex slaves of all the boys and men. If one talks to the girls all they desire is a husband, home and children. However the male dominated American society forces them to submit sexually to the males, for they are told that otherwise no man would choose them for a wife. For years the girls undergo sexual exploitation and other abuse hoping somehow to snare some one for a husband. In the process their virginity is lost, they have to submit to undesired and unwanted sex, and often end up being infected with AIDS and others venereal diseases, or as single mothers.

The society dominated by agnostic, atheistic and immoral males has convinced women that maintaining virginity is an old fashioned concept and that it is somehow better to have sex with all your friends, sometimes just for the price of a burger and soft drink. They have been turned into prostitutes too, amateur prostitutes. Proper marriage is discouraged “dating”, “going steady” and living together is more common. Thus all American (and of other societies who copy them) women have been turned into prostitutes, some professional, others amateur. The world ought to take note of this and instead of becoming like them; we need to emancipate those women from prostitution and sexual



slavery. Unfortunately even their priests do not speak out against this, themselves getting involved in sexual scandals.

Even when married after a long and tortuous struggle the marital bond lasts but a few years in most cases. The girls I talked to envied the Muslim girls who did not have to suffer like this and their parents helped them get nice and educated husbands. In America even Muslim girls are asking prospective husbands to present a blood report in order to exclude H.I.V.

I think we need to do the same with all suspected populations, i.e. those returning from foreign countries. All those found infected should be relegated to live in special areas so that they do not infect the rest of the population.

Islam prescribes a hundred stripes to those men and women who are convicted of fornication. The punishment for married adulterers is death. If these were promulgated the society could be saved from the terrible scourge of AIDS and many other benefits to society would also accrue.

Symptoms of AIDS

Symptoms do not appear for many years after H.I.V. infection. However gradually the cells, which fight disease germs, gradually disappear and then the trouble starts. The body cannot overcome even common colds which become debilitating diseases. Tuberculosis infection takes root easily and progresses rapidly. Even cancer attacks and spreads more frequently and in a more deadly manner. The result is emaciation, weakness, ill health and early death.

Treatment

There is no treatment. Prevention is the only way to go. Some anti-viral drugs have been developed which can delay the downhill course of the disease but cure is not possible. However, these drugs are so expensive that people in the poor countries, like Pakistan, cannot afford to buy them.



Prevention

There should be a persistent and consistent education and propagation through media, as well as in institutions of education that having sex with any other than your spouse usually spreads this horrible and deadly disease. Although infected people can spread it via blood transfusion, needles and other body fluids besides semen.

Marriage should be contracted early and Islamic ways of socialization should be adopted, which helps avoid undue intimacy between men and women. The western society (and others copying them) has callously turned all its women into prostitutes. The so-called professional ones indulge in it for money and the amateurs for the price of a dinner or a movie or even less. That is the basic reason AIDS is spreading like wild fire. We need to protect our men and women from this behaviour.

In addition to marrying early, having more than one wife should be made easy and acceptable, so that if by chance a married man gets involved there should be a legal, moral and safe way out. Lets not be influenced by the western criticism of polygamy as this is something that most prophets followed in their lives, as well as the majority of the revered companions⁽²⁾ of the prophet Mohammad⁽¹⁾.

People who go abroad should be accompanied by their wives. If that is not possible they should contract marriages there with women who are tested free of H.I.V.

There should be a law that anyone returning from abroad should have a blood test taken and if found positive for H.I.V. he should be isolated to a special colony set up specifically for such people, as done in Cuba, that being the only western country which has successfully combated this disease. All these preventive techniques will also help reduce the spread of Hepatitis B and C.

(1) *May Allah bless with eternal peace*

(2) *May Allah be Pleased*

