

Chancroid

Agent: *Haemophilis ducreyi* (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Sexual transmission through skin-to-skin contact with open sores; transmission not related to sexual contact is rare. Auto-inoculation to non-genital sites from open sores is also possible.

Signs/Symptoms: Appearance of one or more sores or raised bumps on the genital organs. Sores are surrounded by a narrow red border and become filled with purulent secretion, and eventually rupture leaving a painful open lesion. The sore is soft to the touch, which is why the term soft chancre is frequently used to describe the chancroid ulcer. In 50% of untreated cases, the chancroid bacteria infect the lymph nodes in the groin.

Prevention: Preventive measures include adhering to safe sexual practices and abstaining from sexual relations with an infected partner until the infection is cured.

Other Important Information: Chancroid is common in tropical countries. In the U.S., it usually occurs in discrete outbreaks. This disease is a cofactor for HIV transmission, as are genital herpes and syphilis. High rates of HIV infection among patients who have chancroid are seen in the United States and other countries.

No cases of chancroid were reported in Virginia in 2010. The last reported case occurred in 2006.