




Your STI questions answered

Maybe you've heard the term sexually transmitted infections (or STIs), but you don't know the what, why, or how—and that's OK.

TRISA

READ


Read up on these common questions and answers so you can learn the facts.



Is there a difference between sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)?

Not really.

No matter which term you use, both refer to infections—think virus, bacteria, fungus, or parasite—that are passed from one person to another through sexual contact.






Would I know it if I
had an **STI?**

You might not.

Many STIs have signs that are hard to notice, or you may not have symptoms. Think you have one? Talk with an adult you trust, or a health care provider, school nurse, or campus clinician.





Do birth control pills prevent STIs?



No, taking the pill
doesn't protect
against STIs.

That's why you should still use
latex condoms with sexual
partners.





How often should I get tested?

**See your provider any time
you notice new symptoms.**

Do you have multiple or new sex partners? Get
tested every year.



The top half of the image has a teal background. It features several dark teal bird silhouettes in flight. There are also large, dark teal geometric shapes: a large circle on the left, a smaller circle in the center, and a rectangle partially overlapping the large circle. The text "Do STIs go away on their own?" is centered in this section.

Do STIs go away
on their own?

The bottom half of the image has a dark green background. A white diagonal line separates it from the teal section above. At the bottom, there are several sets of parallel, light green lines that curve upwards, resembling a stylized landscape or abstract pattern.

**Even if your symptoms lessen,
STIs stay in your body.**


Don't try to treat yourself. Instead,
talk with your provider about what
treatment option is best for you.

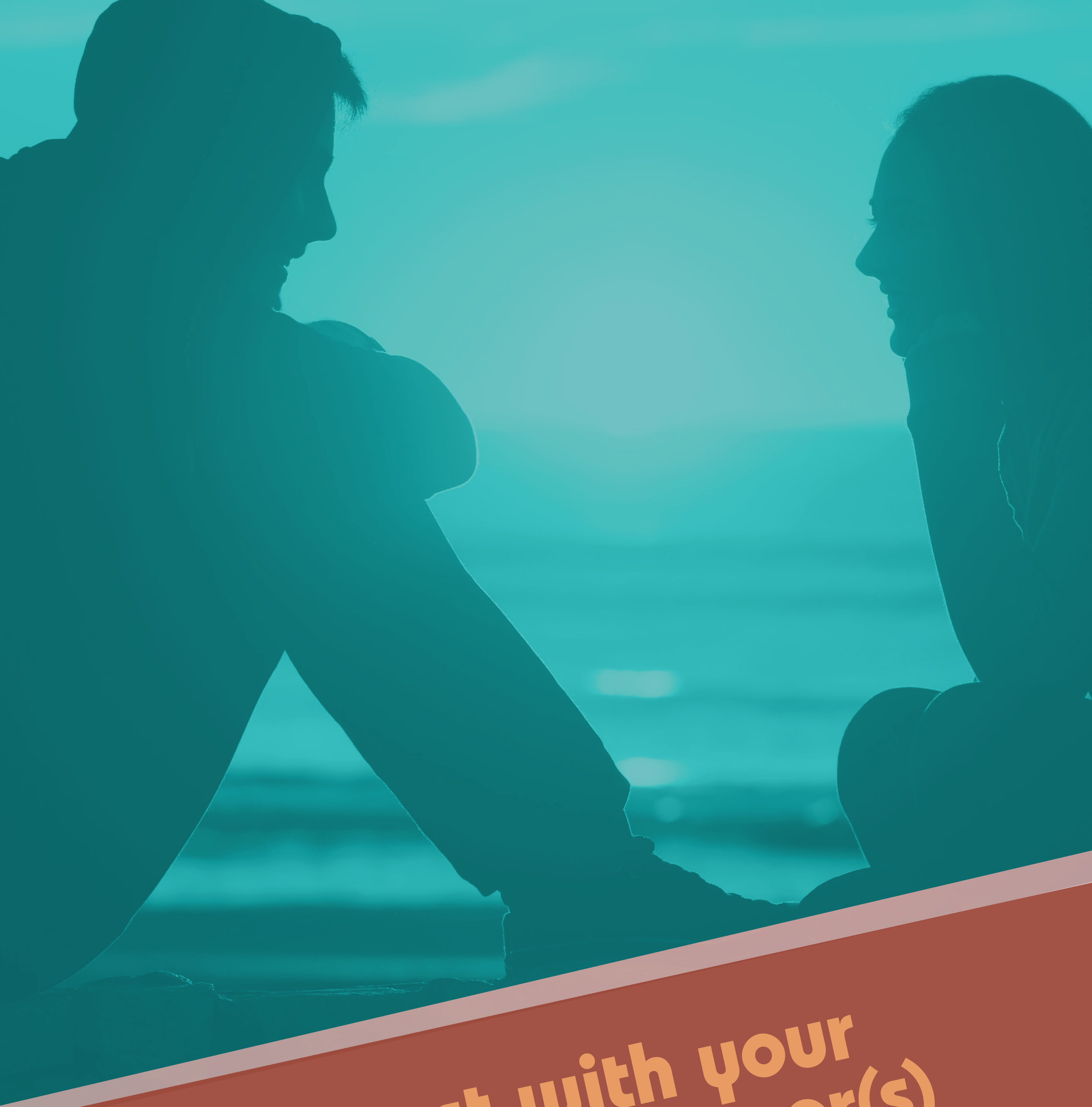
A stylized graphic of a face in the top left corner, composed of a large dark teal circle for the head, a smaller teal circle for the eye, and a dark teal shape for the nose and mouth. The background is a solid teal color.

Can you get an STI if
you've already had it
before?

Yes.

If you're treated for an STI, you can
catch it again, especially if your
partner doesn't get treated.

Abstract line patterns in the bottom right corner, consisting of several groups of parallel lines in shades of teal and dark teal, arranged in a way that suggests movement or a stylized 'V' shape.



Be honest with your provider and partner(s)

Your provider is here to answer any and all of your STI questions. If you're diagnosed with one, begin treatment and tell your recent partners so they can get the help they need, too.

For tips on to how start the conversation, head to [**www.cdc.gov/std/saw/pbyt/conversation.htm**](http://www.cdc.gov/std/saw/pbyt/conversation.htm).