

# PUBIC LICE (Crabs) AND SCABIES

## What causes it?

Insects that bite or lay their eggs in the skin.

## How do I get it?

- sexual contact: direct contact between genitals
- contact with the sheets, towels or clothes of an infested person

## What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of a pubic lice infestation include:

- itchy pubic area
- mild rash with small bluish or blood spots (bites)
- light brown insects the size of a pinhead on hair of skin or in underwear
- oval, whitish eggs on pubic hair

Symptoms of scabies include:

- itching, mainly at night or after a bath or shower
- rash between your fingers; on your wrists, ankles, or elbows; along your waistline; or around genitals, feet or rectal area

## How do you test for it?

Physical examination of the skin or genital area for signs of the insects.

## What treatment is available?

- pubic lice and scabies can be cured
- use special cream, lotion or shampoo as directed by your health care provider or pharmacist: follow the instructions carefully since it is important to kill all the insects and their eggs
- even if the treatment is successful, itching may continue for up to a week: if itching continues longer, repeat the treatment

## What precautions should I take if I have scabies or lice?

- avoid scratching since it may cause a skin infection
- wash or dry-clean all clothes, bed linen and towels in the hottest water and press with a hot iron or dry clean
- clean combs and brushes with a special shampoo for lice

## Where can I get tested?

You can get tested at:

- YCDC (Yukon Communicable Disease Control)  
#4 Hospital Road  
667-8323 or 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8323
- Community Health Centre
- [Medical Clinics](#)
- Talk to a pharmacist about purchasing special cream, lotion or shampoo