

Glossary of terms

Ab	antibody
AChSHM	Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine of the RACP
ACRRM	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
AFAO	Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Ag	antigen
AHC	Australian Hepatitis Council
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIVL	Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League
ALA	Australian Liver Association
ALT	alanine aminotransferase or alanine transaminase
ANA	antinuclear antibody
ANCAHRD	Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (obsolete; now replaced by MACASHH)
Anilingus	oro-anal sex
Anoscopy	inspection of anal canal and rectal lining through a (usually) disposable instrument called an anoscope (also called proctoscopy)
Anti-HAV IgM	antibody to HAV IgM - signifies recent exposure to HAV
Anti-HAV IgG	antibody to HAV IgG - signifies past exposure to HAV or successful vaccination
Anti-HBc IgM	antibody to hepatitis B core antigen - signifies recent exposure to HBV
Anti-HBc IgG	antibody to hepatitis B core antigen - signifies past exposure to HBV
Anti-HBe	antibody to hepatitis Be antigen
Anti-HBs	antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen - associated with non-replicative phase or successful vaccination
Anti-HCV	antibody for HCV - indicates infection with HCV has occurred
Anti-HDV IgG and IgM	antibody to the hepatitis D virus
APTT	activated partial thromboplastin time
ARV	antiretroviral therapy
ASHM	Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
AST	aspartate aminotransferase
B-cell	a type of immune cell
Balinitis	inflammation of the glans penis
Balinoposthitis	inflammation of the glans penis and the prepuce (foreskin)
BBV	blood-borne virus
BCG	Bacille Calmette-Guerin (tuberculosis vaccine)
Bd, bid	twice daily
b-DNA	branched deoxyribonucleic acid
Beats	public toilets, parks and other outdoor venues where MSM 'beat a path' looking for sexual partners

BV	bacterial vaginosis, a common complex syndrome resulting in a change in the vaginal ecosystem with raised vaginal pH; often asymptomatic but sometimes associated with an abnormal vaginal discharge
CAH	chronic active hepatitis
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
C & S	culture and sensitivity
CCR5	chemokine co-receptor on the surface of cells which may be used in HIV-cell fusion
CD4 cell	a helper T-cell which carries the CD4 surface antigen. CD4 cells are the primary target of HIV and CD4 cell numbers decline during HIV disease
CD8 cell	a killer or cytotoxic T-cell which carries the CD8 surface antigen
Chancre	the painless ulcer of primary syphilis
Chancroid	a tropical STI caused by <i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i> , virtually never seen in Australia or New Zealand
CHAP smear	ano-rectal cytology for HPV in MSM
Chlamydia	a sexually transmitted infection caused by <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>
Circumcision	removal of the prepuce (foreskin)
Clue cells	vaginal epithelial cells with bacteria adhering to the surface and partially obscuring the borders, characteristic of bacterial vaginosis microscopically
CMV	cytomegalovirus
CNC	clinical nurse consultant
Condylomata acuminata	genital warts
Condylomata lata	moist warty growths occurring in perineum in secondary syphilis
Contact tracing	the following up, diagnosis and (where possible) treatment of all sexual partners of a patient infected with an STI. Also called 'partner notification'
Crabs	see pubic lice
Cunnilingus	oral sex - mouth to vulva
DG	disseminated gonococcal infection
Dipping	vaginal or anal sex without a condom for varying periods of time prior to ejaculation, i.e. the condom is only applied when the insertive partner is getting near ejaculation
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DoHA	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Donovanosis	a rare STI of great chronicity causing considerable destruction of genital structures if untreated. Seen only in remote Indigenous communities in Australia
EBV	Epstein Barr virus
EIA	enzyme immunoassay; an immunoassay in which an enzyme, such as a peroxidase, is used as a marker to indicate the presence of specific antigens or antibodies, (as in treponemal EIA, a specific serological test for syphilis)
ELISA	enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
Epididymo-orchitis	inflammation of epididymis primarily, spreading secondarily to testis
FBC	full blood count
FCU	first catch specimen of urine
Fellatio	oral sex – mouth to penis
Fisting	sexual act where fist and forearm are inserted into vagina or ano-rectum
Fitz-Hugh Curtis syndrome	transcoelomic spread of pelvic infection with <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> or <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> to the liver surface causing a perihepatitis
Fomites	materials (e.g. towels, sheets etc) which, once contaminated with a microbiological or virological agent, allow transmission of that infection to another individual
FTA-ABS	fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed serology test, a specific serological test for syphilis

Glossary of terms

Genital herpes	infection of ano-genital region with sexually transmitted HSV-1 or HSV-2
Genital warts	exophytic clinical manifestation of sexually transmitted ano-genital HPV infection
GESA	Gastroenterological Society of Australia
GGT	gamma glutamyltransferase
GI	gastrointestinal
GIT	gastrointestinal tract
Gonorrhoea	a sexually transmitted infection caused by <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>
GP	general practitioner
gp120	glycoprotein on the surface of HIV which binds to the CD4 receptor
gp41	glycoprotein on the surface of HIV involved in fusion between HIV and the CD4 cell
GUD	(ano)-genital ulcerative disease
HAART	highly active antiretroviral therapy
HASTI	HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis
HAV	hepatitis A virus
HAVAb	hepatitis A antibody test (IgM or IgG)
HBcAb	see anti-HBc
HBcAg	hepatitis B core antigen
HBeAb	see anti-HBe
HBeAg	HBV 'e' antigen - a marker of viral replication and infectivity
HBIG	hepatitis B immunoglobulin
HBsAg	hepatitis B surface antigen - a marker of current infection which persists in individuals who become carriers
HBsAb	see anti-HBs
HBV	hepatitis B virus
HCC	hepatocellular carcinoma
HCV	hepatitis C virus
HDV	hepatitis D virus
HHV-8	human herpesvirus-8 - associated with Kaposi's sarcoma
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HPV	human papillomavirus
HSIL	high grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
HSV	herpes simplex virus
HVS	high vaginal swab
Hydrocoele	scrotal swelling caused by accumulation of fluid around the testis, between the serosal layers of the tunica vaginalis
IASHC	Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Subcommittee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis
IDU	injecting drug user
IFN	interferon
Ig	immunoglobulin
INR	international normalised ratio - a test of blood clotting
IV	intravenous
IU	international unit (measurement)

KS	Kaposi's sarcoma
Latency	the situation where an infection enters a quiescent asymptomatic phase and is only detectable by appropriate testing
LCR	ligase chain reaction - a NAAT
LFT	liver function test
LGV	lymphogranuloma venereum - a tropical STI caused by <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> serovars L1–L3, now becoming endemic amongst highly sexually active MSM
LKM	liver kidney microsomal
LSIL	low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
MAC	Mycobacterium avium complex
MACASHH	Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis
MAI	Mycobacterium avium intracellulare
µl	microlitre
ml	millilitre
mmol	millimole
MSM	men who have sex with men - a rather unsatisfactory but widely used term to describe all men who ever have sex (of any type) with another man
MSSU	midstream specimen of urine
NAAT	nucleic acid amplification test
NAPWA	National Association of People Living with AIDS
NCHECR	National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NNRTI	non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor
NPEP	non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis
NRTI	nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitor
NSU	non specific urethritis - urethritis where exhaustive laboratory testing fails to find a specific cause (a non gonococcal, non chlamydial, non herpetic, non trichomonal etc urethritis)
OCP	ova, cysts and parasites - looked for on microscopy of faecal specimens
OI	opportunistic infection
Oral sex	use of the mouth in sexual activity (i.e. anilingus, cunnilingus or fellatio)
p24	a core HIV protein, the primary protein detected by the HIV antigen test which is incorporated with the HIV antibody test in Australia
Partner notification	see contact tracing
Pathogenicity	the ability of a micro-organism to cause disease in its host
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PCP	Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia
PCR	polymerase chain reaction, a NAAT
PCT	porphyria cutanea tarda
PEP	post-exposure prophylaxis
pg/ml	picogram per millilitre
PHI	primary HIV infection
PI	protease inhibitor
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
Pili	hair like appendages found on the surface of some bacteria (especially <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>)
PML	progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy

Glossary of terms

Prepuce	foreskin
Proctitis	inflammation of rectal mucosa
Proctoscopy	inspection of the rectal mucosa through a (usually) disposable instrument called a proctoscope (also called anoscopy)
Pubic lice	an infestation of body and pubic hair caused by <i>Pthirus pubis</i> , usually sexually transmitted in adults
Qd	once daily
Qds, qid	four times daily
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RACP	Royal Australasian College of Physicians
RF	rheumatoid factor
Rimming	anilingus, oro-anal sex
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RPR	rapid plasma reagin test - a non-specific quantitated serological test for syphilis
RT	reverse transcriptase
Salpingitis	inflammation of a Fallopian tube - a component of PID
SBP	spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
Scabies	skin infestation caused by <i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i> , often sexually transmitted in adults
Screening	testing for the presence of an asymptomatic condition in an apparently healthy individual
SDA	strand displacement amplification assay - a NAAT
Section 100	a section of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme which provides access to highly specialised drugs
Seroconversion	process whereby a serological test for a given microbiological or virological agent changes from non-reactive to reactive, coinciding with recent infection
Serology	diagnostic identification of antibodies (usually), sometimes antigens, in serum
Serovar	group of closely related microorganisms distinguished by a characteristic set of antigens
Sexually transmitted infection (STI)	any infection which is mainly transmitted from one individual to another by sexual activity (e.g. all the usually accepted STIs such as syphilis, gonorrhoea and genital herpes)
Sexually transmissible infection (STI)	any infection which is capable of being transmitted from one individual to another by sexual activity given suitable circumstances (e.g. enteric infection during oro-anal sexual contact)
SI	squamous intraepithelial
SMA	smooth muscle antibody
SOPVs	sex on premises venues, such as saunas and sex clubs frequented by MSM
Spirochaete	family of motile, spiral shaped gram negative bacteria of which <i>Treponema pallidum</i> is the best known
SSRI	selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors
STD	sexually transmitted disease - a term now largely replaced by the more accurate term STI
STI	sexually transmissible infection or sexually transmitted infection (see above)
SVR	sustained virological response (negative HCV RNA and normal ALT six months after completion of therapy for HCV)
Syndromic management	the approach of treating STI symptoms and signs based on the organisms most commonly responsible for each syndrome (WHO definition)
Syphilis	a sexually transmitted infection caused by <i>Treponema pallidum</i>
T-cell	white blood cell or lymphocyte
Td, tds, tid	three times daily
TMA	transcription mediated assay - a NAAT

TPHA	<i>Treponema pallidum</i> haemagglutination assay - a largely superseded specific serological test for syphilis
TPPA	<i>Treponema pallidum</i> particle agglutination - a specific serological test for syphilis
Transmission	
- horizontal	transmission of an infection from person to person in the community
- vertical	transmission of an infection from mother to foetus or infant
Trichomoniasis	a sexually transmitted infection causing vaginitis and urethritis
U & E	urea and electrolytes
VVC	vulvo-vaginal candidiasis
VZV	varicella zoster virus
WHO	World Health Organization
WSW	women who have sex with women - a rather unsatisfactory term used to describe all women who ever have sex (of any type) with another woman