

Learn the facts. Protect yourself. Get tested.

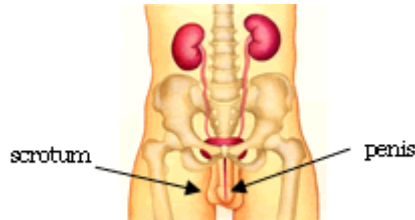
Scabies (SKAY-bees) and Pubic Lice (PYOO-bik LYCE)

sometimes called "crabs", "mites" or "bugs"

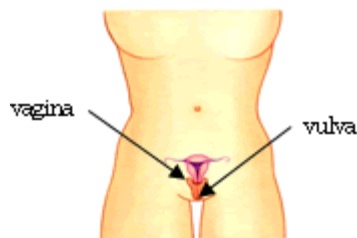
What are scabies and pubic lice?

They are caused by **parasites** and may infect the area around:

- the penis and scrotum



- or the vulva.



Scabies and lice can infect other areas of your body where you have had close contact with an infected person. Scabies can infect parts of your body like your wrists or fingers. Most times, you will find lice in the hair on your body (pubic hair, hair on your face, under your arms).

How do you get scabies or pubic lice?

If you touch someone who has scabies or lice and on or near the infected area, you can get them. You can get them even if you can't see them.

In some cases, you might get them from sharing infected towels, bedding or clothes.

How do you know you have them?

You may have:

- itching
- dark spots on your skin
- small sores, blisters, bumps or a rash

In some cases, you may be able to see the lice or their eggs in your hair.

What is the test like?

Most times, a doctor or nurse can tell just by looking at the area.

How are scabies and pubic lice treated?

You can get rid of them by using special shampoos or creams. You can get these from your health care provider. Your local drugstore may also sell them.



Be sure your partner(s) sees a health care provider and gets treated at the same time so that you don't pass the infection back and forth. You should also be sure to wash all of your clothes, towels and bedding.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- You can choose not to have sex
- You can reduce your number of partners if you choose to have sex
- You can use condoms when you have sex
- You can talk with your partner(s) about STDs
- You can talk with your health care provider and get tested

To find out more about STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) or for information about where you can go to get tested, call (617) 983-6940 or visit www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/std

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