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## About Syphilis

### Determine Syphilis TP

Syphilis is caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum* and is usually transmitted through sexual contact, but can also be passed from a mother to her unborn child – known as congenital syphilis – and endemic syphilis is transmitted by non-sexual contact in communities living under poor hygiene conditions.

In common with other bacterial sexually transmitted infections, syphilis is more common in poor populations who lack access to treatment, and in those who have many sexual partners.

Whilst a curable sexually transmitted disease, if left untreated it can become chronic, eventually leading to irreversible damage to the heart and nervous system.

### “Eliminating congenital syphilis would contribute to three of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.” World Health Organization (WHO)

Syphilis remains a public health threat around the world with 12 million new cases being diagnosed each year. Sub-Saharan Africa, South America and the Caribbean, North Africa, the Middle East and South and South-East Asia account for over 90% of all cases, though incidence is rapidly increasing in Eastern Europe. Outbreaks in North America and Western Europe indicate that the prevalence of the disease is increasing here amongst homosexual men and intravenous drug users.

Congenital syphilis remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality with around half a million infants born each year with congenital syphilis and a similar figure of stillbirths and miscarriages caused by maternal syphilis. Regular screening of pregnant women would give them access to treatment at little cost through a single dose of penicillin early in pregnancy.

More rapid testing, diagnosis and treatment of syphilis can therefore not only help pregnant women, but it can also identify and treat other patients with suspicious clinical lesions to reduce the risk of spreading syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases.

**Determine® Syphilis TP** provides easy, fast and accurate diagnosis and can be relied upon almost anywhere in the world.

[Determine HIV Test](#) [Determine HIV-1/2 Ag/Ab](#) [Determine Hepatitis B Test](#) [Determine Syphilis Test](#) [Site Map](#)

Determine HIV-1/2 Ag/ Ab Combo is currently not available in the US