

# HIV, Hepatitis B & C, Bacterial, and Fungal Infections

**When you inject there is a chance you will inject pathogens into your body. These pathogens can be viral, bacterial, or fungal.**

Viral pathogens like HIV and hepatitis C are spread by blood.

Fungal and bacterial species are common and can be found in a variety of places including your skin, unsterile injecting equipment, and saliva. Once injected your body provides an ideal home for fungus and bacteria.

Here are just some types of bacteria and fungal spores found in injecting drug users:

- Candida
- Mucormycosis
- Streptococcus
- Staphylococcus
- Aspergillus
- Oropharyngeal
- Clostridium

These can cause local infections like abscesses or cellulitis, but they can also spread to your heart valves and cause endocarditis.

Blood can also spread bacteria and fungus to the skeletal system causing osteomyelitis or septic arthritis.

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#### **To minimise the risk of infection:**

- Always use sterile injecting equipment
  - Use sterile water
  - Swab your spoon
  - Wash your hands
  - Never lick your injection site or needle tip
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If an infection persists for more than a few days or increases in size seek medical attention. The longer it is left the greater the potential damage.

VEIN CARE

MAINTAIN YOUR VEINS

For further information call ADIS 1800 177 833