

sextalk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

factoid Sperm can live in the human reproductive tract for 3-5 days after ejaculation.

Q. Can you get an STD from a foam party? I was at a club recently and wondered about this.

A. It all depends on what you're doing under the foam! If you're having sexual contact in the bubbles with an infected person, then yes, you could get a sexually transmitted infection. If you're not having sexual contact but are worried that the foam could migrate from one person to another, carrying an STI, it's nearly impossible.

Q. Usually on the 11th day since the beginning of my period I have a brown discharge for about 3-4 days, and then it goes away. My periods are always on time: 28-30th day. I wonder what the discharge means? I have asked two gynecologists about it and was told that since it is always on the 11th day, these are most likely the days of my ovulation. My question is, does it mean that I may most likely get pregnant if I have sex DURING these "brown discharge days", BEFORE these days or AFTER these days?

A. If this has been a long-time, regular occurrence, most likely the discharge does result from ovulation. Without any birth control, it's very likely you could get pregnant before, during or after these discharge days. If you are not using condoms & spermicide, and if you are not on a hormonal contraceptive method (pill, patch, ring, shot) it's possible to conceive any time of the month. Or course, the most likely time is around ovulation.

If the discharge represents a recent change in your body, it could be a sign of infection or pregnancy. Unusual discharge or bleeding during pregnancy could indicate a tubal pregnancy, which is a serious medical issue. The gynecologists who examined you must have considered your medical exam and sexual history in determining that you were not at risk for either infection or tubal pregnancy. If you are ever in doubt, consider taking a pregnancy test at least 10 days after your last unprotected intercourse.

Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

SexTalk is written by Lee Ann Hamilton, M.A., CHES & Melissa McGee, Ph.D., MPH, health educators at The University of Arizona Campus Health Service.

