

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

wildfact

Acupuncture, massage therapy, travel immunizations, and condoms (100 for just \$12.99) are available at the Campus Health Service.

Q Is it normal for a penis to have a curve in it when erect?

A. Yes. Most bodies (and boners) are asymmetrical. Penises can curve in either direction and at varying angles. This is caused by variability in the muscles at the base of the penis, supporting skin,

and connective tissue. As long as your unit is working well and not painful, there is no cause for concern. Some partners may even find your curve sexier and more satisfying than a straight penis!

Q How can females protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections (STIs) during sex with another female?

A. This is an often overlooked issue. Many people assume that lesbians, or any woman (gay or straight) who has woman-to-woman sex, are not at risk for STIs. The health risks of woman-to-woman sex are much lower than man-to-man or heterosexual contact but the risks still exist. According to the Centers for Disease Control the transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) from one woman to another is rare but possible. Exposure to blood and vaginal secretions can lead to HIV and other infections. Women who have sex with women can pass certain conditions (bacterial vaginosis, hepatitis, herpes, HPV, trichomoniasis, and yeast infections, etc.) through sex play.

To reduce your risks (regardless of your partner's gender) you will want to keep their bodily fluids from touching your body – particularly the mucous membranes of your vagina, anus, mouth,

Barriers – including latex dams and gloves, or even household plastic wrap – can reduce the risk of transmitting an infection during oral sex. If you use sex toys such as vibrators or dildos, be sure to clean them well or use fresh condoms on them (in between uses) if you are sharing them with your partner. No matter what gender your partner is, you can make sex safer with a little planning and protection.

Below are three excellent websites:

www.wingspan.org - a local resource center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people

www.ashastd.org - a national sexual health website by the American Social Health Association

www.goaskalice.com - Q&A website designed for college students



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

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