LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Discuss factors that contribute to the epidemic nature of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
2. Discuss the pathophysiology, including any nonsexual routes of disease transmission and the usual incubation period, for genital infections associated with Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Treponema pallidum, Chlamydia trachomatis, herpes simplex virus, and Trichomonas vaginalis.
3. Describe various measures that can reduce the risk of STD transmission in individuals who have sexual contact with an infected partner.
5. Describe the laboratory tests commonly used in the diagnosis of genital infections associated with N. gonorrhoeae, T. pallidum, C. trachomatis, herpes simplex virus, and T. vaginalis.
7. Differentiate the different stages of syphilis infection in terms of time of onset and the risk of disease transmission from an infected individual to a sexual partner and the risk of neonatal transmission from an infected pregnant female.
8. Differentiate first-episode and recurrent genital herpes infections based on severity of symptoms and the risk of disease transmission from an infected individual to a sexual partner and the risk of neonatal transmission from an infected pregnant female.
9. List the treatment regimens of choice for common STDs and when multiple options exist, differentiate any advantages of one regimen over another.
10. List alternatives to the treatment regimens of choice for common STDs and discuss any perceived drawbacks of these regimens compared to the regimens of choice.
11. Discuss the recommended approaches to evaluating the therapeutic outcome in patients treated for genital infections due to N. gonorrhoeae, T. pallidum, C. trachomatis, herpes simplex virus, and T. vaginalis.
12. List recommended treatment approaches or regimens of choice for pregnant patients with genital infections due to N. gonorrhoeae, T. pallidum, C. trachomatis, herpes simplex virus, and T. vaginalis.
14. Discuss recommended alterations in the treatment guidelines and monitoring guidelines for gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, genital herpes virus infections, and trichomoniasis in patients also infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).