



dear

DOC

Q1: WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF CATCHING HIV FROM CUM IN YOUR EYE ?

A: The risk is very low, but it is still possible. There is a case report of a person catching HIV from infected fluids getting into the eye, but the fluid was under high pressure in a health care setting. I doubt if any client or boyfriend could come in your eyes with such vigour. HIV is the least of your problems: Hep B and Gonorrhoea are more of a problem.

Q2: HOW SAFE IS ORAL WITHOUT A CONDOM ?

A: Condoms protect your orifices ["holes"] from other STD's as well as HIV. STD's can also make it easier for HIV to spread. So using a condom saves you from STD's which helps prevent HIV. With a regular partner who has no STD's it is no problem as long as you don't get come in your mouth. Follow this, and your risk is very low.

Q3: WHAT STD's CAN YOU CATCH FROM RIMMING ?

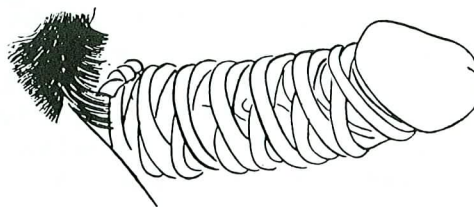
A: Heaps. Hepatitis A, Gonorrhoea, Warts etc, but not HIV. You can also catch infections from the intestine, like diarrhoea (Amoebiasis, Giardia, and other germs). This was much more common during the seventies and was called "GAY BOWEL SYNDROME".

Q4: HOW DANGEROUS ARE STD's TO ME NOW THAT I'M HIV+ ?

A: If you're HIV+ and you catch an STD it can damage the immune system a little bit. If you catch many STD's or any other infections they can add up to produce more serious damage. Some doctors think that this is especially important if you have had any herpes infection (genital herpes or cold sores around the mouth) or shingles, which is caused by a germ that is very similar to the germ that causes Genital Herpes. Talk to your doctor to see if you need treatment for Herpes with Acyclovir (Zovirax).

Q5: WHAT ARE THE LATEST TREATMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV ?

A: Information for People with HIV changes quickly. With AZT and antibiotics, the quality and quantity of life can be increased drastically. All HIV+ people can receive the latest info by requesting HIV Briefs and HIV Herald from the Treatments Officer at VAC (Victorian AIDS Council), Tony Maynard PH 4836700.



Special thanks go to Doctor Ron McCoy for this article.