FACT SHEET

Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)

What is STSS?

Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS) is a serious infection caused by a bacteria called group A streptococcus (GAS). Some strains of GAS are more likely to cause severe illness than others.

Who Can Get STSS?

STSS is a rare disease. It can occur in individuals who have soft tissue infection. It may also occur in people with invasive infections such as pneumonia. It occurs when the bacteria overcome the body's defenses or when the person's ability to fight off infections is decreased because of chronic illness or an illness that affects the immune system.

What are the Symptoms?

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Severe pain
- Tiredness
- Breathing difficulty

What is the Treatment?

Antibiotics are used to treat STSS. The sooner antibiotics are started the better the chance for the individual to recover.

How Can You Prevent STSS?

- Wash hands well with soap and water
- Seek medical attention if a wound gets infected