methods of self-protection, such as appropriate personal hygiene and avoiding unprotected sexual activity.

Prevention includes educating women, especially young women, regarding the causes and transmission of infection and modification of risk-taking behaviors. Contraceptives and barrier contraceptive devices such as condoms reduce the risk of PID.

Pelvic inflammatory disease is usually polymicrobial (caused by more than one microbe) in origin. Pathogenic microorganisms enter the vagina and travel to the uterus during intercourse or other sexual activity. They can also gain direct access to the uterus during childbirth, abortion, or surgery of the reproductive tract. The organisms ascend to the endocervical canal to the fallopian tubes and ovaries. Abscess formation is common.

**PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND MANIFESTATIONS**

**Critical Thinking in the Nursing Process**

1. What signs and symptoms might a client with early syphilis experience?
2. List some appropriate questions for taking a sexual history when you suspect the presence of one or more STIs.
3. How might you counsel Mr. Kratz to help him break the news of the diagnosis to Ms. Jones?

See Evaluating Your Response in Appendix C.