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TRICHOMONIASIS

(TRIK-oh-mo-NYE-uh-sis)

What is it?

Trichomoniasis is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STI) in the United States. Both males and females can get trichomoniasis, but it is much more common among women. There is an easy way to cure the infection.

What are the symptoms?

Most people with trichomoniasis don't have any symptoms, but if they do, they may have:

WOMEN	MEN
Fluid from the vagina (discharge)	Fluid from the opening of the penis (discharge)
Unusual vaginal odor	Pain when urinating
Vaginal itching or redness	
Pain when urinating or having sex	

For more information:

- Meet with your doctor.
- CDC website:
www.cdc.gov/std/trichomonas

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TRICHOMONIASIS

what it is
and
what you can do





What causes trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis is caused by having unprotected sex with somebody who already has the infection, even if they don't have symptoms.

What if I think I have trichomoniasis?

Make an appointment with your doctor right away, who can test you for the infection. Be sure that you are treated for other STIs also. S/he will take a sample of the discharge from your vagina or penis. You should be able to know the results before you leave the clinic.

If you have trichomoniasis, it is very important that your recent sexual partners also get tested.

TREATMENT OF TRICHOMONIASIS

Trichomoniasis is easily treated and cured with antibiotics (pills). It is important to finish taking all of the antibiotics your doctor gives you, and not to have unprotected sex until you have completed the assigned prescription. Most of the time this antibiotic will be metronidazole (met-ro-NYE-duh-zol). Do not drink alcohol when you are taking this medication because you may feel very sick.

It is also important to let your doctor know if you are pregnant because metronidazole may increase your risk of giving birth prematurely.

WHAT IF MY TRICHOMONIASIS GOES UNTREATED?

- If you do not treat trichomoniasis, your symptoms may not go away.
- Trichomoniasis may increase your likelihood of getting other STIs, such as HIV/AIDS.
- Trichomoniasis may increase your risk of cervical cancer.



WHAT IF I AM PREGNANT?

- If you are pregnant, trichomoniasis has been shown to increase your risk of having an early, preterm delivery.
- If you are having symptoms, your doctor will treat you with antibiotics.
- If you are not having symptoms, but are found to have trichomoniasis, your doctor will not treat you with antibiotics because it may increase your risk of giving birth prematurely.



HOW DO I PREVENT TRICHOMONIASIS?

- The only way to fully avoid getting infected with trichomoniasis is to not have any kind of sexual intercourse (abstinence).
- Using condoms every time you have sexual intercourse can reduce your chance of getting or giving trichomoniasis.
- Be sure to see your doctor right away if you have any symptoms and be open with your partner if you have been diagnosed with trichomoniasis.

