



April 2011

Trichomoniasis

What is Trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis is a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a one-celled parasite. This parasite can be found in both men and women. Trichomoniasis can be treated and cured.

Symptoms of Trichomoniasis

Most men and many women have no symptoms. If symptoms occur, they develop 4 to 20 days after sexual contact with an infected person. Women may notice increased vaginal discharge that is greenish-yellow in colour, thin, foamy, and has a foul odour. Women may also have itchiness, redness, soreness or discomfort during sex and when they pass urine.

Men often have no symptoms, but some may notice burning when they pass urine or after sex.

How Trichomoniasis spreads

Trichomoniasis is spread during unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person.

Complications of Trichomoniasis

Trichomoniasis is rarely dangerous but the symptoms can be very uncomfortable.

Diagnosing Trichomoniasis

Trichomoniasis may be diagnosed from a physical examination and medical history and by taking a sample of the discharge from the cervix. Sometimes the infection is discovered from a woman's Pap test. In men, a sample is taken from the penis.

Treating Trichomoniasis

The usual treatment of trichomoniasis is with pills called Metronidazole, commonly known as Flagyl.

- Flagyl has been deemed safe to take in all stages of pregnancy and while breastfeeding
- alcohol can react with Metronidazole to cause severe nausea and vomiting. Do not drink alcohol during treatment. Avoid alcohol for at least 24 hours after treatment is completed

For further information, please call:
York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653
TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca

What about sexual partners?

All sexual partners should be treated at the same time so that they do not reinfect each other.

Is follow-up important?

Follow-up is not needed if the symptoms have disappeared.

Remember:

- take all your medication as prescribed by your doctor or clinic
- avoid sex while you and your partner(s) are being treated
- do not drink alcohol during treatment and for 24 hours after treatment is completed
- use condoms to lower the chance of getting STIs and to prevent pregnancy
- it is possible to have more than one infection at a time, so it is important to be tested for other STIs

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