

What you need to know about *Trichomonas vaginalis*

Overview

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*



It is the most common **curable** STI worldwide



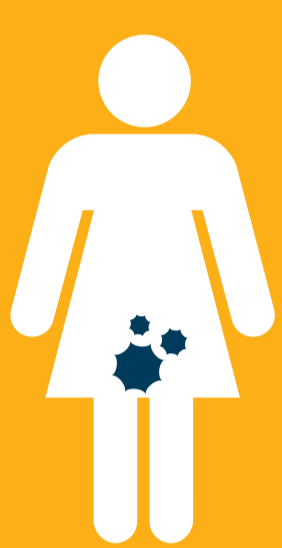
There are an estimated **143 million** new cases a year



Infections can be very dangerous for pregnant mothers & their children

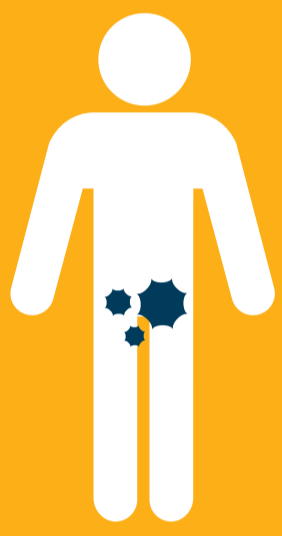
Signs/Symptoms

The infection is asymptomatic in **70% of individuals**. However consult a doctor if you experience any of the following:



In women:

- Genital irritation
- Pain with urination or sexual intercourse
- Malodorous (“fishy smelling”), yellow-frothy discharge



In men:

- Discharge from the penis
- Irritation inside the penis
- Burning with urination or after ejaculation

Prevention

Correct and consistent use of latex condoms (be aware, the parasite can infect areas that are not covered by a condom.)

Open communication with sexual partners

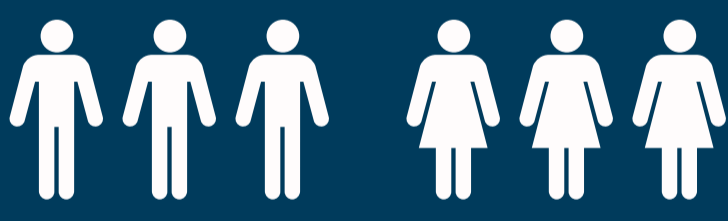
Sexual partners should be treated **simultaneously** to reduce spread

Global Impact



Incidence (and 95% UI) of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, trichomoniasis, and syphilis in women and men aged 15–49 years by WHO region, based on 2012 data.

Risk Factors



Multiple sexual partners



A previous episode of trichomoniasis



A history of other sexually transmitted infections



Having sex without a condom

Key Notes

Trichomonas vaginalis is the **most prevalent non-viral sexually transmitted disease** worldwide



Unfortunately, trichomonas is **excluded from most STI screening** programs

About **1 in 5 people** get infected again within 3 months after receiving treatment therefore management of contacts is critical to reduce recurrence



Disease Severity



▪ Infection can **increase the risk** of acquiring other STIs such as **HIV**

▪ People may be infected for years and **transmitting the infection without knowing**

▪ Trichomoniasis may cause **serious complications for pregnant mothers and their children** including:

- postabortal infection
- postcesarean infection
- low birth weight in infants
- preterm delivery

References

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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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