



Trichomoniasis Facts

What is trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a parasite. Trichomoniasis can affect both males and females.

How do you get trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis is spread through vaginal sex with an infected person.

Can you protect yourself from trichomoniasis?

Yes. The best ways to avoid trichomoniasis are:

- Not have sex (abstinence).
- Limit your number of sex partners.
- Use a latex condom correctly each time you have sex.
- Talk to your partner(s) about trichomoniasis and other STIs.

What are the symptoms of trichomoniasis?

Men have no symptoms. Symptoms are more common in women. When symptoms are present, they will usually appear within five to twenty-eight days after sex with an infected person. Symptoms may include:

Females

Painful/more frequent urination
Fever/dull stomach ache or backache
Unusual discharge with strong odor from vagina
Bleeding between periods
Vaginal itching

Males

Pain when urinating
Drip from penis
Irritation inside the penis

You should call your health care provider or Guilford County Department of Public Health right away if you have any of these symptoms or if you have had sex with someone who has trichomoniasis or has these symptoms. Since the symptoms of STIs often resemble one another, diagnosis by a health care provider is the only way to know for sure if you are infected.

Is trichomoniasis dangerous?

If left untreated, it may:

- Cause a pregnant woman to have babies who are born early or at a low birth weight (less than five pounds).
- Cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID is an infection of the fallopian tubes or uterus that can affect a woman's ability to have children.

Can you cure trichomoniasis?

Yes. Trichomoniasis can be cured with antibiotics.

Can you still have sex?

You should not have sex until:

- You have finished all of the medicine.
- Anyone you are having sex with has finished all of their medicine (to prevent re-infection).

Who can I call for more information?

National STD Hotline: 1-800-227-8922

www.ashastd.org

Guilford County Department of Public Health

Greensboro or High Point: 336-641-7777

www.myguilford.com