
Can infection be prevented?

Yes, follow these guidelines.

- Abstain from sexual intercourse; or,
- Use a latex condom properly every time you have sexual intercourse, with every partner.
- Limit your sexual partners. The more sex partners you have, the greater your risk of encountering someone who has this or other STD's.
- If you are infected, your sexual partners should be treated. This will prevent you from getting re-infected.

For more information, visit
[http://www.cdc.gov/std/Trichomonas/
STDFact-Trichomoniasis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/Trichomonas/STDFact-Trichomoniasis.htm)



Mission Statement

The Pat Walker Health Center, University Health Services provides professional and comprehensive medical care, mental health care, health education, and health promotion for a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. We, the University Health Services Staff of the Pat Walker Health Center, have a commitment to physical, mental, spiritual, social, and emotional health, the highest standards of quality, and appreciation of the value of each individual. Through these endeavors we support the educational mission of the University of Arkansas and the growth of each individual.

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**Accreditation Association
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TRICHOMONAS INFECTION



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What is a *trichomonas* infection?

Trichomonas vaginalis is a microscopic parasite found worldwide. Infection with *T. vaginalis* is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases, mainly affecting 16 to 35 year old women. In the United States, it is estimated that 7.4 million new cases occur in women and men each year.

How is trichomoniasis spread?

Trichomoniasis is spread through sexual activity. Infection is more common in women who have had multiple sexual partners.

A common misbelief is that a toilet seat can spread infection; this isn't likely, since the parasite cannot live long in the environment outside the body.

What are the signs and symptoms of infection?

Women: Signs and symptoms of infection range from having no symptoms (asymptomatic) to many symptoms. Typical symptoms include foul smelling or yellow-green discharge from the vagina, vaginal itching or redness. Other symptoms can include painful sexual intercourse, lower abdominal discomfort, and the urge to urinate.

Men: When symptoms are present, they most commonly are discharge from the urethra, the urge to urinate, and a burning sensation with urination.

How long after infection do symptoms occur?

Most women who develop symptoms do so within 5-28 days, but it can be as long as up to 6 months after being infected.

Most men with *trichomoniasis* do not have signs or symptoms, but can transmit the infection.

What should I do if I think I have trichomoniasis?

See your healthcare provider who can test you for infection.

How is infection diagnosed?

Women: Your healthcare provider will perform a pelvic exam to collect vaginal samples for examination.

Diagnosis is most commonly made by viewing the parasite under a microscope.

Men: Diagnosis is made by collecting specimens from the urethra.

No diagnostic test is 100% accurate; mistakes can be made. Your health care provider may order additional testing to confirm the diagnosis.



I have trichomoniasis and am pregnant; can I spread infection to my baby?

Yes, but this is rare. Babies born to infected mothers may contract infection during delivery. Infants may develop fever; girls may develop vaginal discharge. Children should be treated if diagnosed. See your healthcare provider about treatment of trichomoniasis during pregnancy.



Is infection treatable?

Yes. Your doctor will prescribe an antibiotic for you. If all current sexual partners are not treated, it is possible to become reinfected.

Treatment failed, is there another recommendation?

Yes. However, you may be treated with the same drug, for a longer time and at a higher dose. Your doctor may prescribe more than one drug to treat you. All sexual partners should be treated at the same time. Use a latex condom or avoid having sexual intercourse to prevent reinfection during treatment.

