



Trichomoniasis Facts

What is trichomoniasis?

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

How do you get trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis is spread through vaginal sex. Women can get the disease from infected men or women, but men usually contract it only from infected women.

Can you protect yourself from trichomoniasis?

Yes. The best ways to avoid trichomoniasis are:

- No sex (abstinence).
- No drugs (including alcohol), which can impair your judgment.

If you are having sex:

- Limit your number of sex partners One lifetime partner is best.
- Use a latex condom correctly each time you have sex. Remember, condoms are not 100 percent effective.

What are the symptoms of trichomoniasis?

Most men have no symptoms. Symptoms are more common in women. When symptoms are present, they will usually appear one to five weeks 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 a health care provider or the Guilford County Department of Public Health right away if:

- You have any of these symptoms.
- You have had sex with someone who has trichomoniasis or shows any of the above symptoms.

Is trichomoniasis dangerous?

Yes. Pregnant women with trichomoniasis may have babies who are born early or at a low birth weight (less than five pounds).

Trichomoniasis can also cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). This can affect a woman's ability to have children.

How do you treat trichomoniasis?

Antibiotics are used to treat and cure trichomoniasis.

How do you know you have trichomoniasis?

Women can be diagnosed with a simple exam and lab test.

Make sure that anyone you're having sex with gets treated by a health care provider or the Guilford County Department of Public Health clinic. Call 641-5563 (Greensboro) or 845-7699 (High Point) for an appointment.

Can you still have sex?

You should not have sex until:

- You have finished all of the medicine.
- Anyone you're having sex with has finished all of their medicine.

Who can I call for more information?

- National STD Hotline: 1-800-227-8922
 - Spanish-Speaking: 1-800-344-7432
 - Hearing-Impaired: 1-800-243-7889
- Guilford County Department of Public Health
 - Greensboro or High Point: 641-7777