

Fact sheet

Trichomoniasis is a parasitic infection of the vagina or urethra. It is treated with antimicrobials. Use condoms to prevent transmission.

Trichomoniasis

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What is Trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis, usually called *Trich*, is caused by a parasite that infects the vagina in women and the urethra in both men and women. Trichomoniasis can live unnoticed in the body for many years if it isn't diagnosed and treated.

Are there any symptoms?

Not all women notice symptoms but some women may notice:

- a frothy yellow-green vaginal discharge
- an unpleasant vaginal odour
- vaginal itching or a burning sensation

Most men have no noticeable symptoms but some men notice a discharge from the penis or a burning sensation when urinating.

Trichomoniasis infection can increase the risk of premature births.

How is it transmitted?

Trichomoniasis is transmitted through vaginal sex.

How is it prevented?

Using condoms and water based lubricant can significantly reduce the risk of transmission of trichomoniasis and other sexually transmissible infections.

Go for a regular sexually transmissible infection (STI) check-up to find infections before complications develop and to prevent transmission to others. Always use condoms.

How is it diagnosed?

A doctor will do a simple genital examination. For women, the doctor will take a swab of the infected area. The swab is examined under a microscope to see if the trichomoniasis parasite is present. Men are usually only tested if their partner tests positive.

How is it treated?

Trichomoniasis is treated with antibiotics. Your sexual partner will need treatment at the same time, whether they have symptoms or not, so they don't give it back to you or pass it on to someone else. Avoid sex until both you and your sexual partner(s) have been treated.

Telling partners

If you have trichomoniasis it is important to tell your sexual partner, so they can also be tested and treated. Your doctor can help you decide who may be at risk and help you to contact them.

The information in this fact sheet is general and you should see a doctor if you are worried about your health.

Contact

NSW Sexual Health Infoline freecall **1800 451 624**

