



Trichomoniasis Fact Sheet

What is trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis (“trich” pronounced “trick”) is a common sexually transmitted disease (STD). It is caused by a protozoan (a one-celled organism) parasite called *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

How does trichomoniasis spread?

Trich spreads during sex. It can spread from vagina to penis, penis to vagina or vagina to vagina. It doesn’t usually infect the anus or hands or mouth.

What are the symptoms of trichomoniasis?

Like many STDs, most people may not even know they have trichomoniasis. Men/guys might notice a burning or itching on urination or after ejaculation. Sometimes guys can have a discharge. Women may notice itching, burning or a thin vaginal discharge that can be clear, white, yellowish or greenish. This discharge may also have an unusual odor.

How long does it take for symptoms to appear?

Many people with trich never develop or notice their symptoms. Some may develop symptoms anywhere from 5-28 days after infection.

How long can a person with trichomoniasis infection spread it to his or her partners?

Trich can last for months or even years if not treated.

How does trich affect a pregnant woman and her baby?

Pregnant women with trich are more likely to have their babies too early (preterm delivery). Also, babies born to infected mothers are more likely to have an officially low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds).

How is trichomoniasis diagnosed?

Your health care provider can use laboratory tests to see if you have trichomoniasis

What is the treatment for trichomoniasis?

If you have trich, don’t panic. Trichomoniasis can be treated (and cured!) with the right medicine (antibiotics). All of your sex partners should be evaluated, tested, and treated. You should avoid having sex until your sex partner(s) have been treated. If you have sex and your partner didn’t get treated, you can get it again.