

What About My Partner?

Your partner must get treatment, too. Even though he or she may not have symptoms, they should be treated to make sure they do not get infected again. Your partner should **not drink alcohol or use medicine containing alcohol** during treatment and for one day after treatment.

Be sure you and your partner each use your own medicines.

Can I Still Have Sex?

You may have sex. Condoms are recommended until you and any partners are treated and treatment is completed.

Is Trich Dangerous?

Trich is usually not dangerous. Sometimes it can cause other health problems. This is very rare.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

There is a small chance that trich can cause an infection of your fallopian tubes. This infection is called pelvic inflammatory disease or PID. This could affect your ability to have children. Prompt treatment can keep damage from occurring. See your local health department or health care provider as soon as you have any symptoms of PID (fever, chills, pain or tenderness in lower abdomen, cervix, or uterus).

Trich infection may make it easier for you to be infected with HIV.

How Can I Protect Myself?

- ✦ Limit the number of people you have sex with. The more people you have sex with, the more likely it is that you will get trich.
- ✦ If not seeking pregnancy, use a **latex or polyurethane condom** whenever you have sex.

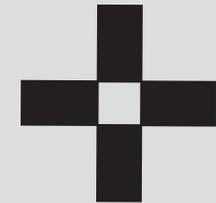
If you have any problems or questions, call your health department or health care provider.



State of North Carolina
Pat McCrory, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services
Aldona Z. Wos, M.D., Secretary
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Trichomoniasis

(also known as "trich")



What is Trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis (pronounced **TRICK** o mo NI uh sis), also known as trich (pronounced "trick"), is an infection of the vagina in women and of the penis in men. It is caused by a tiny organism called *Trichomonas vaginalis*. Trich is a very common infection. The more sexual partners you have, the more likely it is you will get trich.

How Do I Get Trich?

Both women and men usually get trich by having sexual intercourse. It is easy for sexual partners to get the infection.

What Are The Symptoms of Trich?

The symptoms of a trich infection appear about a week after contact with an infected person. In some cases, symptoms appear from three to 28 days after contact.

Symptoms in Women

- ✦ Foamy discharge from vagina – may be yellowish-green or gray.
- ✦ Discharge has a bad odor that may smell "fishy."
- ✦ Mild-to-severe itching or burning around the vagina.
- ✦ Redness in and around the vagina.
- ✦ May have pain during intercourse.
- ✦ May have pain when you urinate.

Some women do not have any symptoms but still have an infection.

Symptoms in Men

- ✦ Slight discharge, especially before urinating in the morning.
- ✦ Mild itching or irritation of penis.
- ✦ May have pain during intercourse.
- ✦ May have burning right after intercourse.

Many men with an infection do not have symptoms. However, men should be seen by a doctor or nurse if their partner has symptoms.

If You Have These Symptoms

If you or your partner do have any of these symptoms, see your health care provider. There may be a need to look at the genital area and take a sample of the discharge from the vagina or penis. This will help your doctor or nurse find out if you have trich.

How Is Trich Treated?

Trich is treated with a medicine called metronidazole (sold as Flagyl or Protostat).

Tell your health care provider if you are pregnant.

About Your Medicine?

Take all of your medicine. You may begin to feel better after several days, but you need to take all of your medicine to cure the infection.

Be sure you are the only one who uses your medicine.

If your medicine is metronidazole (Flagyl or Protostat), there are some things you should know:

- ✦ **Do not drink any beer, wine, liquor, or alcohol of any type** while you take the medicine or for one day after you finish. Drinking alcohol and taking these medicines can cause severe nausea, racing heartbeat and hot flashes. Some cough syrups and non-prescription medicines have alcohol in them. Check with your health care provider before using any other medicine.
- ✦ You may have a bad, metal-like taste in your mouth. This will go away after you finish the medicine.
- ✦ Your urine may be darker.
- ✦ You may get a yeast (candida) infection. Your health care provider can give you another medicine if you have problems with yeast.
- ✦ If you have vomiting, severe dizziness, rash, seizures or numbness in your hands or feet, stop the medication and contact your health care provider.