

## Trichomoniasis Vaginitis

### Cause:

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted vaginal infection that is caused by a parasite. The organism may live in the bowel or the genitourinary tract of women who have no symptoms. The organism may be present for long periods of time, giving rise to symptoms only when an individual's resistance to infection is lowered, usually at times of physical or psychological stress, or a surgery.

### Symptoms:

Symptoms of a trichomoniasis infection include a thin, frothy, yellow-green, foul-smelling vaginal discharge. There may be pain, itching, swelling, and redness of the genital area. There may also be some cramping, urinary frequency, and light bleeding.

Men usually have no symptoms, but may have painful urination or a clear discharge from the penis.

### Treatment:

Examination of the vagina and of the vaginal discharge under the microscope will confirm the presence of a trichomoniasis infection. The usual treatment for trichomoniasis is an antibiotic: Flagyl (Metryl, Metronidazole, Prostat). All sexual partners should be treated, to prevent recurrence of the infection.

### About Flagyl:

All sexual partners should take Flagyl at the same time. Condoms should be used during the course of treatment.

### You Should Not Take Flagyl if:

- you are in the first trimester of pregnancy and are planning to continue the pregnancy.
- you are nursing a child.
- you have had a previous reaction to Flagyl.
- you have had Flagyl recently (within 6 to 8 weeks).
- you have a blood disorder.
- you have disorders of the retina (back of the eye) or of your nervous system.

You may take Flagyl with food, but NOT ALCOHOL. Avoid alcohol for one day before and after treatment, since together Flagyl and alcohol may cause a severe upset stomach.

### Minor Side Effects Are:

- nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting.
- diarrhea, constipation, abdominal cramps.
- dryness or a metallic taste in the mouth; furry tongue.