

## TRICHOMONIASIS FACT SHEET

### What is Trichomoniasis?

Trichomoniasis (commonly called “trick”) is an infection caused by a tiny parasite called trichomonas vaginalis. The parasite can infect the vagina, urethra, bladder, cervix or under the foreskin of uncircumcised men. It can be spread through sex with someone who is infected.

### What are the signs and symptoms?

Many times there are no symptoms. If symptoms do appear, they can include:

Women:

- vaginal discharge, different from normal (may be grey, yellow, green and frothy)
- unusual smell
- mild to intense vaginal itching
- redness and pain in vaginal area
- pain during intercourse or pain passing urine (peeing)

Men:

Symptoms, although rare, may include;

- discharge from penis
- burning when passing urine (peeing) or after ejaculation
- irritation/redness around tip of penis

### How is trichomoniasis diagnosed?

Women:

A swab of the vaginal discharge is usually necessary. Sometimes trichomoniasis will show on a routine Pap test.

Men:

Most often men are treated without testing if they had sex with someone who tested positive. If tested, a swab is taken from the tip of the penis.

### Is there treatment?

The most effective treatment for trichomoniasis is metronidazole, also called Flagyl. A doctor will give you a prescription for these pills. Return to the doctor if the symptoms do not go away. Both partners need to be treated at the same time.

Some people may feel sick to their stomach or have diarrhea, notice a metallic taste in their mouth, or a dry mouth and dryness in the vagina while taking Flagyl.

Do not drink alcohol (beer, wine, and liquor) while taking Flagyl and for 24 hours after finishing treatment as you may vomit or have uncomfortable side effects.

Do not have sex during treatment, even if you plan to use a condom. It is best to wait 7 days until all symptoms have disappeared before having sex again.

If not treated, trichomoniasis can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) which can cause infertility. It is very important to be treated and followed by your doctor if you are pregnant as the baby could be born early or with a low birth weight.

### Is there treatment or follow-up for trichomoniasis?

If you still have symptoms or vomit immediately after taking the medication, return for testing and/or more treatment.

You should also be tested for other sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. Trichomoniasis is linked with an increased risk of HIV in women if in contact with someone who is infected.

<p>Remember: Condom use will help prevent the spread of STIs, HIV and Hepatitis B.</p>
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**For further information, talk to your health care professional or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 or visit [peelsexualhealth.ca](http://peelsexualhealth.ca) [peelregion.ca/health](http://peelregion.ca/health)**