



LENAWEE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Trichomoniasis (Trich)

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What is Trich?

Trichomoniasis (or "trich") is a very common STI caused by infection with trichomonas vaginalis (a protozoan parasite). Although symptoms vary, many people who have trich cannot tell they have it. Testing for trich is done through urine or vaginal fluid samples at a health care providers office or the Lenawee County Health Department.

How is Trich Spread?

Sexually active people can get trich by having sex without a condom with a partner who has trich. *In women*, the infection is most commonly found in the lower genital tract (vulva, vagina, cervix, or urethra). *In men*, the infection is most commonly found inside the penis (urethra). During sex, the parasite usually spreads from a penis to a vagina, or from a vagina to a penis. It can also spread from a vagina to another vagina.

Symptoms of Trich

Most people that have trich do not have any signs or symptoms. Infected people without symptoms can still pass the infection on to others.

When trich does cause symptoms, they can range from mild irritation to severe inflammation. Symptoms can come and go.

- Men: May feel itching or irritation inside the penis, burning after urination or ejaculation, or some discharge from the penis.
- Women: May notice itching, burning, redness, or soreness of the genitals, discomfort with urination, or an unusual smell with a thin discharge that can be clear, white, yellowish, or greenish.

Reducing the Risk

- Communication with partner(s)
- Use a condom or dental dam with every sex partner
- Don't share sex toys and wash them thoroughly after every use
- Having one STI increases your risk for getting other STIs

Treating Trich

- Take the metronidazole, an antibiotic pill exactly as you are directed
- Finish the medication even if you start to feel better
- Do not share medication
- Reinfections are common, so get tested again 3 months after finishing treatment

This FACT SHEET is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information call your health care provider or call the Lenawee County Health Department (517) 264-5226