

Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) & Yeast

What are the symptoms of BV?

Often there are no symptoms, but when there are, they can include:

- An unusual vaginal discharge, with a fish-like smell. You are most likely to notice this after you have sex or your period.
- Itching around your vagina
- Only individuals with vaginas can get BV.

How does one get BV?

Anyone with a vagina can get BV, but you are at higher risk if you:

- Have a new sex partner or multiple partners
- Douche

You do not get BV from toilet seats, bedding, swimming pools, or touching objects.

How is BV treated?

- BV is treated with antibiotics
- Finish all your medicine to be sure you are cured. Do not share your medicine with anyone. You need all of it.
- Many women have recurrences. If you still have symptoms after treatment, go back to see your doctor.

If you do not get treated for BV, you are at a higher risk of getting another STD, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea.

What are the symptoms of yeast infections?

Symptoms typically include:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Vaginal itching or soreness
- Pain during sexual intercourse or pain or discomfort when urinating

If in the mouth or throat, it is known as “thrush”

- White patches on the inner cheeks, tongue, roof of mouth, and throat
- Redness or soreness, difficulty swallowing
- Cottony feeling in the mouth, loss of taste

How does one get a yeast infection or thrush?

- One is more likely to get a yeast infection if they are pregnant, diabetic, have a weakened immune system, or are taking antibiotics.
- Thrush is most common in babies, those who wear dentures, take antibiotics, smoke, or take medications that cause dry mouth. Individuals diagnosed with diabetes, cancer and HIV/AIDS are more susceptible with getting thrush due to a weakened immune system

How are yeast infections treated?

- They are treated with antifungal medications, either taken orally or inserted vaginally.

BV and Yeast Infections are not STDs. However, it is important to get tested regularly.

- Be sure you learn your results and talk about them with your health care provider.
- Make sure your partner(s) get tested.
- Remember, you or your partner can be infected with an STD and have no symptoms.

If you think you or your partner may have an STD, avoid sex and see a health care provider right away. To learn more and find testing near you:

<https://gettested.cdc.gov> or 800-CDC-INFO