

“Trich” or Trichomoniasis

What are the symptoms of trichomoniasis?

Many people with trichomoniasis don't know if they have it because they have no symptoms. However, if symptoms are present, they may include:

- An unusual discharge, with a strong smell, from your vagina.
- Discomfort when you urinate and when you have sex.
- Irritation or itching around your genitals.
- An irritation or burning feeling inside your penis.
- A discharge from your penis.

How can I lower my risk for trichomoniasis?

- The surest way is to not have sex, or to have sex with someone who is not infected and who has sex with only you.
- Condoms can reduce your risk of getting trichomoniasis if used correctly (see reverse side for instructions) every single time you have sex.
- Stop having sex and see a doctor right away if you notice any unusual discharge or feel burning when you pass urine.
- Washing the genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not prevent any STD.

When should I be tested?

You should be tested if you have any of the following symptoms:

- A discharge from your vagina or penis
- Pain when you have sex
- Pain when you pass urine
- Irritation or itching around your genitals
- Burning feeling inside your penis

*Allegheny County Health Department currently only offers testing for vaginal trichomoniasis.

What happens if I don't get treated?

- You have a higher risk of getting HIV infection if you have unprotected sex with a person living with HIV.
- You have a higher chance of passing HIV to your partner.
- Trichomoniasis can cause infections of the urethra or prostate gland.
- Pregnant women with trichomoniasis are more likely to deliver their babies too early.
- Your symptoms may not go away.
- You can re-infect your partner or pass trichomoniasis to your partner. It is important to avoid sex until both you and your partner(s) have been treated.

Most people who have trichomoniasis (TRICK o man NI a sis) don't know it; often this STD has no symptoms.

- Trichomoniasis (“trich”) is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that anyone can get.
- You can pass trichomoniasis to others without knowing it.
- Trichomoniasis is easy to treat and cure.
- Typically, trichomoniasis is spread by having vaginal sex with someone who has it.