

Department of Genitourinary Medicine

Swabs

The following swab (cotton wool/soft foam) samples may be taken today, although exactly which samples are obtained will vary between patients according to individual symptoms and concerns.

Vaginal swabs for:

- **Candida (Thrush):** This is a common cause of vulval and vaginal irritation or soreness, or increased discharge. Sometimes Candida may be present in the vagina without symptoms, in which case no treatment is usually recommended. The condition is not acquired through sexual intercourse.
- **Bacterial vaginosis:** This causes an increased vaginal discharge, often with a slightly fishy odour, although as with 'thrush', it may be present without symptoms. We are not sure why bacterial vaginosis develops but it is thought not to be acquired through sexual intercourse.
- **Trichomonas vaginalis:** This usually causes a yellow vaginal discharge, sometimes associated with discomfort on passing urine. The infection is most commonly acquired through sexual intercourse.

Cervical swabs for:

- **Chlamydia:** This is a common bacterial infection which can cause an inflammation of the cervix (neck of the womb) and urethra (water passage). Women with chlamydia may notice an increased vaginal discharge, pain on passing urine or, commonly, may have no symptoms. Chlamydia is easily treated with antibiotics and as it is acquired through sexual intercourse, sexual partners should be assessed and treated.
- **Neisseria gonorrhoeae:** This is an uncommon bacterial infection usually causing an inflammation of the cervix. Although this may produce an increased

discharge, the infection is often carried without symptoms. It is acquired through sexual intercourse and, therefore, sexual partners should be assessed and treated.

Urethral swabs for:

- **Chlamydia** – as above
- **Neisseria gonorrhoeae** – as above

Results of your swab

- Some of the samples taken today may be examined under the microscope in the clinic. We are therefore able to give you these results within the next 30-60 minutes. These include tests for Bacterial vaginosis, Candida (thrush), Trichomonas vaginalis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae.
- All samples are also sent to the main hospital laboratory for further testing. We will let you know if these show an infection. These may include tests for Candida, Trichomonas vaginalis, Chlamydia and Neisseria gonorrhoeae.

Other possible tests that may be carried out

A **cervical smear** may be taken if one is due although we usually recommend that you arrange this with your GP.

A blood sample may also be taken to check for HIV and **syphilis**. Syphilis is an uncommon infection nowadays but is still routinely checked for in anti-natal clinics and at blood transfusion centres.

We will provide you today with any treatment you may need.

Please ask one of the clinic nurses or doctors if you have any questions about the tests we perform today.

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format:
01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Potete chiedere di ottenere queste informazioni in altre lingue, in stampato grande o in audiocassetta.

Italian

若你需要本信息的繁體中文、大字體或音訊格式的版本，請要求索取。

Cantonese

तमने आ माहिती चीछ भाषाओमां, मोटा अक्षरोमां अथवा सांभजी शकाय जेवा माध्यम
(ओडीओ इमेज)मां जेठती छोय तो कृपा करीने पूछो.

Gujarati

تکایه پرسیار بکه نه گهر نهوزانیاریهت دهوی به زمانیکی تر , به پیتی گهره یانیش به شیوهی دهنگ

Kurdish

آگر آپ کو یہ معلومات دوسری زبانوں میں، بڑے الفاظ کی اشاعت میں یا آڈیو ٹیپ پر درکار ہوں تو براۓ مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

Urdu



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. Please do not smoke anywhere on the site.

For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

Document history

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Contact number	01223 217774
Published	October 2006
Review date	October 2008
File name	Swabs.doc
Version number	1
Ref	PIN1295