

Department of Genitourinary Medicine

Bacterial vaginosis

What is bacterial vaginosis?

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a common vaginal condition caused by an overgrowth of bacteria which are often found in low numbers in the healthy vagina. One of these bacteria is called '**Gardnerella**' (some doctors still call BV by this name). Another group of bacteria called '**Anaerobes**' also contribute to the symptoms.

We are unsure exactly why bacterial vaginosis should develop. The condition is not considered a sexually transmitted infection - however if you were to keep getting BV, we may advise your sexual partner to attend for a check.

What are the symptoms of bacterial vaginosis?

Most women notice an increased vaginal discharge, often with a slight odour which may become more noticeable after sexual intercourse. Occasionally you may have a mild irritation or itching.

Can the condition be treated?

Yes, the condition can be treated with an antibiotic called **Metronidazole**. This may be given as a single drink of liquid or as a course of tablets. It is important for you to avoid alcohol both during, and a day either side of treatment, because the combination may cause you nausea and vomiting. An alternative treatment that is sometimes used is **Clindamycin** cream inserted inside your vagina each night for one week. This rarely causes any side effects. No follow-up appointment is necessary after treating BV, unless your symptoms persist.

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

Gujarati

تکایه پرسیار بکه ته گهر نهوزانیاریهت دهوی به زمانیکی تر ، به پیتی گهوره 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 برائے مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

Urdu



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Document history

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