

# Trichomoniasis

## What is it?



- **Trichomoniasis**- STD/sexually transmitted disease that affects both men and women, symptoms are more common in women, most common curable STD in young, sexually active women
- **How is it caused?**- by single-celled protozoan parasite, vagina is the most common site of infection in women, the urethra/urine canal is the most common site of infection in men

## Signs and Symptoms:

- **Men**- usually none, may have an irritation inside the penis, mild discharge, or a slight burning after ejaculation or urination
- **Women**- frothy, yellow-green vaginal discharge with a strong odor, may cause discomfort during urination or intercourse, itching or irritation of the genital area, lower abdominal pain, symptoms appear 5 to 28 days after exposure

## Facts:

- **Yearly**- 7.4 million new cases in men and women
- **Parasite is Sexually Transmitted**- penis to vagina, vulva to vulva/genital area outside the vagina, contact with an infected partner, women can acquire from both men and women and men acquire from women usually
- **Increase Chances**- of HIV infection if exposed to the virus and increases the chance of passing to her sex partners
- **Pregnant Women**- may have babies who are born early or with low birth weight/less than 5.5 lbs.
- **Prevention**- abstain from sexual contact, relationship with 1 partner who has been tested, latex condoms reduce the risk

## What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- must perform a physical examination, laboratory tests, parasite is harder to detect in men than women, in women a pelvic exam can reveal sores on the vaginal wall or cervix, and both partners should be treated at the same time to eliminate the parasite, all are susceptible to re-infection
  - **AVOID SEX**- until the treatment is completed and there are no symptoms
  - **Treatment**- prescription medications given by mouth

