

Trichomoniasis: Under diagnosed and under treated?

TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS is estimated to be the most common, curable, non-viral sexually transmitted infection.² It is a motile parasite, approximately the size of a white blood cell, and is estimated to cause 20% of vaginitis complaints. Historically thought of as a nuisance infection, it can have serious health implications and has been largely under diagnosed and under treated.

SYMPTOMS

When present, typical symptoms of *Trichomonas vaginalis* are:

FEMALE SYMPTOMS APPROXIMATELY 50% ARE ASYMPTOMATIC

Vaginal/vulvar irritation and itching

"Frothy" yellow/green discharge, vaginal odour

Painful urination and/or pain during intercourse

"Strawberry cervix" upon examination

Vaginal pH greater than 5



MALE SYMPTOMS APPROXIMATELY 75% ARE ASYMPTOMATIC

Urethral discharge

Itching and painful urination



WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS³?

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Multiple sexual partners
- Past STI infection
- Low education and poverty

WHY IS IT UNDER-REPORTED?

- Lack of sensitivity of common diagnostic method
- No formal public health reporting
- Frequently asymptomatic
- Partners often not tested or treated

DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGES

There are a number of diagnostic options available. However, choices may have to be made in terms of:



ACCURACY

Patient receives correct diagnosis


















TIME

Patient receives correct diagnosis in a timely manner



COST

Diagnosis is obtained cost-effectively and affordably

| METHOD | FEATURES |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MICROSCOPY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most widely used technique • Accuracy varies widely (30-75%)⁵, and is impacted by factors such as subjectivity, training, microscope condition and sample collection/handling • Requires observation of live, motile organisms; 20% of trichomonads are reported to lose motility within 10 minutes of sample collection⁵ |  |  |  |
| CULTURE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long been considered the gold standard • Provides greater accuracy than microscopy • Labor intensive; can take days for results³ |  |  |  |
| MOLECULAR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly accurate results • Expensive in terms of equipment and cost per test; requires specialized training • Does not allow for test-and-treat approach |  |  |  |
| ANTIGEN OSOM® Trichomonas Rapid Test | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 sec. of hands-on time, results in 10 min. or less • Accuracy- 95% overall agreement vs. combined reference method (culture and microscopy) • No equipment or specialized training required • Easy-to-read, objective results • Detects antigen; does not require live, motile organisms • Patient can collect sample |  |  |  |