

# BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS

Bacterial vaginosis is one of the most common causes of vaginal discharge. It is an infection caused by one of several vaginal bacteria, such as *Gardnerella vaginalis*. With proper treatment, the infection usually clears in 1 week.

## Symptoms

Gray–white vaginal discharge; may be foul-smelling  
Itching, redness, or soreness of the vagina may be present

## Treatment

Drugs are necessary; metronidazole (Flagyl) or clindamycin (Cleocin) are usually used.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Flagyl must not be taken during pregnancy.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages while taking these drugs.
- Nausea and vomiting may be side effects of these medications; take them with food.
- If you are sexually active, your partner also should be treated.
- Avoid sexual intercourse until all symptoms have resolved and both partners have been treated.

## Prevention

Bacterial vaginitis is a sexually transmitted disease. Abstinence is the best form of prevention; use of condoms may be the next best method.

### Contact your health care provider

- If your symptoms get worse or last for more than 1 week
- If you have additional questions or concerns