

About Vaginal Infections

and STDs

Vaginal Discharge and Itching.

Vaginal discharge may be caused by infections or reactions to douches, perfumes, sprays and contraceptive foams. You do not have to be “fooling around” to get a vaginal infection.

Common Infections Causing a Discharge.



1) Yeast infection.

Small amounts of yeast normally live in the vagina. Sometimes the yeast can grow out of control. This can cause itching, burning and abnormal discharge.

Treatment may include anti-yeast medicine by mouth or vaginal creams/suppositories.



2) Non-Specific Vaginitis or Bacterial Vaginitis.

This is caused by a bacteria. It may be treated with an antibiotic. Flagyl or ampicillin are often used. **Do not drink alcohol while taking Flagyl.**



Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

STDs are sexually transmitted diseases. You may also hear them called “VD” or “Venereal Disease.”

Many of these disease are spread during sex. The most common are:

- chlamydia
- syphilis
- gonorrhea (“clap”)
- HIV or AIDS
- trichomonas
- genital herpes

Many of these disease initially show no symptoms. For example, many women with gonorrhea don’t know they have it until they become very ill with a pelvic infection.

STDs can case infertility, serious illness, or even death. They are not harmless!

Do not have sex for at least one week or until you see your doctor for follow-up -- even if you feel better!



Chlamydia and Gonorrhea (“the drip,” “the clap”).

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are infections spread only during sex. You can’t get them from a toilet seat or from straining yourself. Often they occur together and patients are usually treated for both.

Antibiotics are used to treat these infections. They can be given given by mouth or by shot. You must take your antibiotics are prescribed for them to be effective.



Trichomonas (“Trick”).

Flagyl is prescribed in non-pregnant women. Male partners are usually treated since they may have the infection without symptoms.

Do not drink alcohol while taking Flagyl.



Pelvic Infection (“PID,” “Pelvic inflammatory Disease.”)

PID is an infection in the fallopian tubes and uterus (womb). If not treated, PID can cause infertility or serious belly infections.

All partners must be treated to prevent reinfection.

Many cases of PID are mild. Others cause bad belly pain, high fevers and vomiting.

Patients may be treated at home with antibiotics. They will need to be re-checked in 24-48 hours by a doctor.

See a doctor right away if:

- the pain or other symptoms worsen or persist
- you develop a high fever
- vomiting, resulting in dehydration, or you cannot take your antibiotic

NOTE:
You are at high risk for getting syphilis or HIV(AIDS), which if left untreated could be fatal. Get tested for both diseases at your doctor's office or Bellflower Clinic.

IMPORTANT TIPS.

- 1) Follow up with your doctor or at the Bellflower Clinic
- 2) Tell all your sexual partners to see their doctor or go to Bellflower Clinic for STD treatment.
- 3) Do not have sex for at least one week. Take all your pills and get checked again by your doctor or at Bellflower Clinic.
- 4) Be sure to practice SAFE SEX. Always use a condom. But, know that a condom will not definitely protect you against all STDs.

Information about Bellflower Clinic.



Bellflower Clinic can help you with medicines. They can also see you for follow-up visits if you do not have a doctor of your own.

Be sure to bring this sheet with you when you visit Bellflower Clinic.

The address is:
1101 West 10th Street
Indianapolis
Phone: 221-8300

Hours:

The clinic sees walk-in patients:

Monday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.



Call 221-8300 to set up an appointment during these hours:

Monday 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 11:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday 10:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.



Bellflower clinic charges a \$5 fee. If you don't have any money at the time, they will give you an envelope to send it in.