



BV Fact Sheet

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is an infection caused by an imbalance of bacteria in the vagina. BV can lead to an increased risk of getting an STD.

Symptoms: Commonly without symptoms

- Foul vaginal odor
- Strong, "fishy smell" is common, especially after intercourse
- White or gray vaginal discharge
- Burning during urination
- Itchiness around outside of vagina

Transmitted through:

- Vaginal, anal, or oral sex

Prevention:

- Abstinence
- Appropriate use of latex condoms
- Avoidance of sexual contact with partner until treatment is complete
- Appropriate use of dental dam or any latex barrier for oral sex on a vagina or anus

Treatment:

- Antibiotics prescribed by a healthcare provider
- Re-infection after treatment is possible
- Appropriate treatment of partner

Consequences without treatment:

- Increased risk of acquiring other STDs, like chlamydia and gonorrhea
- Increase in a woman's risk of acquiring HIV through heterosexual contact
- Increase in chance that an HIV infected woman will pass to her sex partner
- Increased risk in acquiring pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), following surgeries like a hysterectomy or abortions

Consequences without treatment in pregnancy:

- Low birth weight babies
- Intra-amnionic infection
- Chorioamnionitis
- Postpartum endometritis

Contact Information