

Trichomoniasis

1. What is trichomoniasis (trich)?

Trichomoniasis, also called “trich”, is the most common curable sexually transmitted disease (STD). You can get it in your vagina or penis. Most people who become infected don’t have any signs or symptoms.

2. How is trich spread?

You can get trich by having unprotected sex with someone who has it. Most people who get infected don’t know they have it because they don’t have symptoms. You can’t tell if someone has it by looking at them. Getting tested is the only way to find out if you have trich.

3. What are the symptoms of trich?

About 70% of infected people do not have any signs or symptoms. When people have symptoms, they can be mild at first. They can show up 5 to 28 days after having sex with someone who has trich. Symptoms can also show up much later (months).

You may have some of these symptoms:

- Pain or burning when you urinate (pee)
- Fluid from the vagina or penis that smells or looks strange
- Pain during sex
- Itching or irritation around the vagina
- Irritation or burning feeling inside the penis

4. How can I get tested?

To get tested for trich, go to a doctor or health clinic. There are free or low cost, confidential testing sites available around Los Angeles County. Visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/STDclinics.htm> to find a local clinic. If you don’t have a regular doctor, call the free STD hotline (800) 758-0880 to find free testing and treatment.

5. How is trich treated?

Trich can be treated and cured with medicine prescribed by your doctor. It’s important to take all the medicine as instructed and don’t share your medication with anyone unless instructed. Your doctor may give you medicine for your partner called patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT). Make sure both you and your sex partner(s) are treated before having sex again.

6. How can I prevent trich?

- Use condoms.
- Limit your sex partners.
- Get tested in all the places (vagina, penis, anus (butt) and throat) you have sex.
- If you are pregnant, seek early prenatal care to prevent health problems for you and your baby.



Key Points

- Trich is very common, especially among people 15-24 years old.
- Most people with trich don’t have symptoms, but they can still spread it.
- Use condoms to prevent the spread of trich.

For more information:

Los Angeles County
Department of Public
Health

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/>

California Department of
Public Health

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Trichomoniasis.aspx>

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
(CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/trichomonas/STDFact-Trichomoniasis.htm>

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