



# TRICHOMONIASIS: Partner Fact Sheet



## Why am I getting medicine or a prescription?

- Your sex partner has been diagnosed with trichomoniasis (trick-oh-moh-NY-ah-siss), or “trich”. You may have “trich” too. It is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). STIs are spread through oral, vaginal, or anal sex with an infected person.
- “Trich” is easy to treat (cure) by taking a medicine called metronidazole (met-roh-NY-dah-zol). Metronidazole is very safe.
- Your sex partner was treated. You need to be treated, too. That’s why a health care provider gave your partner medicine or a prescription for you. Getting treated this way, without seeing a health care provider, is called Expedited Partner Therapy or EPT.



## What do I need to know about “trich”?

- Most people with “trich” don’t have symptoms (signs of infections). You may have “trich” and not know it but can pass it on to others.
- If you do have symptoms, you may have itching or irritation in the genital area, a burning feeling when you urinate (pee), a discharge (drip) from the penis, or yellow-green discharge from the vagina.
- Having “trich” can increase your risk of getting other STIs, including HIV.
- Pregnant women with “trich” can pass the infection to their babies, causing very serious health problems.

## Why should I take the medicine?

- If you don’t get treated, you may develop serious, even life-long health problems.
- The good news is – once you are treated, you won’t infect others.

## I’ll take the medicine. But should I see a health care provider?

- Seeing a health care provider is best. But, if you cannot see a health care provider in the next few days, take the EPT medicine or fill the prescription your partner has given you.
- Even if you take the medicine, see a health care provider as soon as possible to get tested for “trich” and other STIs, too. You may have more than one STI at the same time. The metronidazole will not cure other STIs.



### Reasons not to take the medicine and see a health care provider instead.

Metronidazole is a safe medicine. But, do not take it if you:

- Are pregnant, may be pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- Are female and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting or fever.
- Are male and have pain or swelling in the testicles (balls) or fever.
- Have had a rash, breathing problems or other allergic reaction to metronidazole or other medicines.
- Have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart or liver disease.
- Take another prescription medicine.

If any of these are true for you, see a health care provider as soon as possible. Your health care provider will find the best medicine for you. If you are not sure about what to do, see a health care provider as soon as possible.



## How to take the medicine

- Take the pills all at once. It is best to take this medicine with food to prevent an upset stomach.
- If you throw up in the hour after taking your medicine, you need to get more medicine. In this case, it's best to see a health care provider as soon as possible.
- Do not share or give your medicine to anyone else.
- Do not take the pills if you have had any alcoholic beverage in the previous 12 hours and do not drink alcohol until 24 hours after you take this medication.**
- After taking your medicine, wait at least 7 days before having sex. If you do have sex, use a condom or dental dam (for oral sex) so you don't get infected again.

## If you are a man who has sex with men

In Maryland, men whose sex partners include other men need to be tested for gonorrhea and other STIs, too. Since you may have gonorrhea, you also may have syphilis and/or HIV and not know it. It is very important that you see a health care provider and get tested for STIs.

*To find low-cost or free STI/HIV testing sites near you, go to: [gettested.cdc.gov](http://gettested.cdc.gov), call your local health department, or call: 800-232-4636 / TTY: 888-232-6348.*

## Side effects

Most people have no side effects (feel sick) from metronidazole. Some people may get: diarrhea; slightly upset stomach; dizziness; taste of metal in the mouth. These side effects are not usually serious. **Drinking any alcohol with this medicine can cause a severe reaction that may include stomach upset, nausea, vomiting, and headache.**

## Allergic reactions

IF YOU HAVE SIGNS OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION, call 911 or go to the Emergency Room immediately. These include: trouble breathing, throat tightness, swelling of your lips or tongue, or hives (very itchy skin bumps or welts).

The Maryland Department of Health wants to learn about any serious problems you may have had with the medicine. If you think you had an allergic reaction, contact:

@mdh.STIclinicalconsult@maryland.gov  
📞 410-767-6690

## Avoid STIs in the Future



The only way to completely avoid STIs, including HIV, is not to have sex. If you do have sex, do it safely. **Use a latex condom every time for every kind of sex – anal, vaginal, or oral sex. You can also use a dental dam for oral sex:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/condomeffectiveness/Dental-dam-use.html>.

You can lower your chances of getting STIs, including HIV, by limiting the number of people you have sex with. The more partners you have, the higher your risk of getting an STI.