

strawberry cervix, best visualized by colposcopy). The pH of vaginal fluid—normally <4.7—usually rises to ≥5. Microscopic examination of vaginal discharge mixed with saline reveals motile trichomonads in most culture-positive cases. However, saline microscopy probably detects only one-half of all cases, and, especially in the absence of symptoms or signs, culture or NAAT is usually required for detection of the organism. NAAT for *T. vaginalis* is more sensitive than culture. Treatment of asymptomatic as well as symptomatic cases reduces rates of transmission and prevents later development of symptoms.

TREATMENT

Vaginal Trichomoniasis

Only nitroimidazoles (e.g., metronidazole and tinidazole) consistently cure trichomoniasis. A single 2-g oral dose of metronidazole has been the standard treatment for decades, but it is less effective than a weeklong course; the latter is preferred. Tinidazole has a longer half-life than metronidazole, causes fewer gastrointestinal symptoms, and may be useful in treating trichomoniasis that fails to respond to metronidazole. Treatment of sexual partners, facilitated by dispensing metronidazole to the female patient to give to her partner(s), significantly reduces both the risk of reinfection and the reservoir of infection; treating partners is the standard of care. Intravaginal treatment with 0.75% metronidazole gel is not reliable for vaginal trichomoniasis. Thus, systemic use of metronidazole is still recommended throughout pregnancy for treatment of trichomoniasis. In a large randomized trial, metronidazole treatment of trichomoniasis during pregnancy was associated with an increased frequency of perinatal morbidity. However, most studies, including randomized controlled trials, have shown no adverse effects of metronidazole use during pregnancy on preterm birth or birth defects.

Bacterial Vaginosis BV is a syndrome characterized by symptoms of vaginal malodor and increased white-gray discharge, which appears homogeneous, is low in viscosity, and uniformly covers the vaginal mucosa. BV has been associated with an increased risk of