



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

URGENT HEALTH MATTER – PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Trichomoniasis Treatment Information Sheet Important Information About *Your* Health

(This Treatment Information Sheet is intended for sex partners of persons with Trichomoniasis)

Your sex partner has been treated for trichomoniasis, a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from sexual intercourse or the genital area contact with an infected sex partner. Women can acquire the disease from infected men or women, but men usually contract it only from infected women. You may have been exposed to trichomoniasis infection. Trichomoniasis is easily treated with the medicine metronidazole (also known as Flagyl). People with trichomoniasis may not know they have it because they have no signs or symptoms. Your sex partner has given you metronidazole (pill) medicine or a prescription for metronidazole medicine. This medicine or prescription was given to your sex partner by a doctor or other medical provider to treat YOU. **Do not take metronidazole if they have consumed alcohol in the previous 12 hours, and to abstain from all alcohol for 24 hours following treatment.**

It is very important for you to see your own doctor or medical provider as soon as possible to get examined and tested for this infection. If you cannot have an exam in the next several days, you should take the pill that was provided to you, or have the prescription that was given to you filled at your local pharmacy, and take the medication as instructed by the pharmacist or medical provider. It is very important to see a doctor or medical provider as soon as possible to get examined and tested for this and other STDs. People can have more than one STD at the same time. This medicine will not cure other STDs. Having STDs can increase your risk of getting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). You may also want to get a test for HIV.

WHAT IS TRICHOMONIASIS?

Trichomoniasis is caused by a protozoan (germ) called *Trichomoniasis vaginalis*. Trichomoniasis is the most common curable STD in young, sexually active women in the U.S., and an estimated 7.4 million new cases occur each year in the U.S. in both men & women. Trichomoniasis is a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex with a person who already has it. Many people with trichomoniasis do not know they have it because they have no symptoms and feel fine. Some people may notice symptoms:

SYMPTOMS OF TRICHOMONIASIS

ALL – most people DO NOT experience or notice any signs or symptoms at all.

MEN – may temporarily have an irritation inside the penis, mild discharge, or slight burning after urination or ejaculation.

WOMEN – may have a frothy, yellow-green vaginal discharge with a strong odor. The infection also may cause discomfort during sex and urination (peeing), as well as irritation and itching of the female genital area. In rare cases, lower abdominal (belly) pain can occur. Symptoms usually appear in women within 5 to 28 days of exposure.

BEFORE TAKING THE MEDICINE, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

Metronidazole is a very safe antibiotic. However, **DO NOT take it if any of the following are true:**

- You are pregnant.
- You have consumed alcohol in the previous 12 hours.
- You are female and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting or fever.
- You are male and have pain or swelling in the testicles or fever.
- You have had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking metronidazole (Flagyl), or other antibiotics. People who are allergic to some antibiotics may also be allergic to other types. If you do have allergies to antibiotics, you should be examined by your medical provider before taking this medicine.
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart or liver disease.
- If you are currently taking another prescription medication, including medicine for diabetes, consult your pharmacist before taking the medication to ask about drug interactions.
- If any of these circumstances exist, or if you are not sure, do not take the metronidazole. Instead, you should talk to your doctor or medical provider as soon as possible. Your doctor or medical provider will find the best treatment for you.

WARNINGS:

- Do not take metronidazole if they have consumed alcohol in the previous 12 hours, and to abstain from all alcohol for 24 hours following treatment.
- If you are pregnant, do not take this medication and seek medical evaluation before taking the medicine.

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING METRONIDAZOLE

DO take the pill given to you by mouth with a full glass of water and with food. By taking the pills with food, you are less likely to get an upset stomach or vomit and the medicine will work better in your body. You need to take all of the medicine you were given to be cured.

DO NOT drink alcohol for 24 hours following treatment.

DO NOT give this medicine to others. It is intended for sex partners of persons who have trichomoniasis.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Possible side effects of taking this medication include:

- Slightly upset stomach
- Headache
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Change in taste sensation or dry mouth

These are well-known side effects and are not serious. Very few people experience any of these problems.

