

## Bacterial Vaginosis

**B**acterial vaginosis is a harmless but bothersome problem for many girls. The vagina normally contains many bacteria. When some of these bacteria increase in number, the symptoms of bacterial vaginosis may begin.

Girls who have bacterial vaginosis complain of vaginal odor, discharge, itching, or irritation. It is uncomfortable, but not harmful to the body. Bacterial vaginosis generally is not considered a sexually transmitted disease.

Bacterial vaginosis can be diagnosed by looking at vaginal discharge under a microscope. It can be treated with antibiotic pills by mouth or with an antibiotic gel inserted into the vagina. Douching is NOT recommended. It may make the problem worse. There is no need to treat sexual partners for bacterial vaginosis.

**For more information about bacterial vaginosis or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), talk to your health care provider or call the Children's Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188.**