**Trichomonas**

**Trichomonas** is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). It is usually spread from person to person through sexual contact. Trichomonas is common among sexually active teens.

Some people with trichomonas have symptoms and others do not. Guys may have burning with urination or no symptoms. Girls may complain of a vaginal discharge, vaginal itching, or burning with urination. Even if they have no symptoms, an infected person may spread the disease to others. There is no test to diagnose trichomonas in guys. There is a test that can be done to diagnose trichomonas in girls. So, it is important to know if female partners have been diagnosed.

Trichomonas can be treated with antibiotics. A person should not have sexual intercourse while taking antibiotics or for 7 days after finishing the antibiotics. **It is very important that anyone treated for trichomonas tell their sexual partners that they could also be infected and may need to be treated.**

Doctors are not sure if trichomonas can damage the body. Guys probably are not harmed by the infection. In girls, this is not so clear. It is possible that trichomonas may cause serious problems, especially in women who are pregnant.

The **only** way to keep yourself safe from sexually transmitted diseases is to not have sex (abstain from sex). If you do decide that you are going to be sexually active, it is important that you use a condom **every** time you have sex to prevent the spread of infections. See your health care provider for routine checkups to make sure you are disease-free.

**For more information about trichomonas or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), call your health care provider or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188.**