



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Bacterial Vaginosis

What is bacterial vaginosis?

It is a common infection in a women's vagina. The infection is usually not serious. It can cause problems for pregnant individuals and for individuals experiencing infertility.

What causes bacterial vaginosis?

The true cause is unknown. In the vagina, a change in the normal amount of bacteria occurs. A few of the bacteria grow rapidly and cause the infection.

What are symptoms?

- White or discolored discharge
- Discharge that smells fishy
- "Fishy" smell that is strongest after sex
- Many individuals do not have any symptoms.

How do they tell I have it?

A vaginal culture will be done by your doctor.

Can it spread?

B.V. is not considered a sexually transmitted disease. You can get bacterial vaginosis without having sex. Partners can reinfect each other with the infection.