

BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS

What causes it?

Bacteria.

How do I get it?

- this is a bacterial infection of the vagina (vaginitis)
- there is less of the normal bacteria that are usually present in a healthy vagina, allowing several species of harmful bacteria to take over
- affects women only, but if a woman keeps getting vaginosis, her partner may need to get treated as well
- not an STI but generally only sexually active women get it

What are the symptoms?

- foul or fishy smell from vagina, smell is worse after sex
- unusual gray-white discharge from the vagina
- irritation, burning or itching in vagina

How do you test for it?

Swab from vagina.

What treatment is available?

- curable
- your doctor or nurse will give you a prescription for an antibiotic

What precautions can I take to avoid it?

Avoid douches or other feminine hygiene products that can disturb the natural balance of bacteria in the vagina.

Where can I get tested?

You can get tested at:

- YCDC (Yukon Communicable Disease Control)
#4 Hospital Road
667-8323 or 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8323
- Community Health Centre
- [Medical Clinics](#)