



## Trichomonas - Asymptomatic Screening

**CDC Recommends:** annual screening of all *at-risk* sexually active women\* for **Trichomonas (Trich)**, in addition to **CT** and **NG**.

\*This includes sexually active women: 25 years old and younger, with a new partner and/or multiple sex partners, exchanging sex for payment, using illicit drugs, or with a history of STD.

### Why screen for **Trich**?

- About **70%** of people infected with **Trich** do not have any signs or symptoms
- Distinctive signs are present in **less than 10%** of women with **Trich** infections
- Every year, 7.4 million new cases of **Trich** occur in women and men, making it more prevalent than **CT** and **NG** combined.<sup>1</sup>
- In a study of 7593 women screened for these 3 STDs, the overall prevalence of each was: **Trich** (8.7%), **CT** (6.7%), **NG** (1.7%).<sup>2</sup>
- Prevalence of **Trich** increases with age and is most common in women ages 35-45.

### Why **PCR**?

- **Trich** is very frequently undiagnosed by standard testing methodologies
  - Pap smears **miss 3 out of 4** infections
  - Wet-mount microscopy has a sensitivity is **less than 60%**<sup>3</sup>
- **PCR** is highly sensitive, often detecting 3-5 times more **Trich** infections than wet-mount<sup>4</sup>

Untreated Trichomoniasis can lead to **severe, life-long consequences**:

- Increased risk for **HIV** infection and other STDs
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), leading to **Infertility**
- **Pregnant** women: Preterm delivery, low birth weight, neonatal transmission

**GA Recommends:** with every **CT/NG** order, request **Trich** PCR as well

- on the order form, check each box for **CT/NG** and **Trich**, or
- start ordering the **STD3** Panel (**CT/NG/Trich**, or Test #301)
- acceptable specimens include: ThinPrep®, G Swab®, or urine

<sup>1</sup> CDC. Trichomoniasis fact sheet. Available at: <http://cdc.gov/std/trichomonas/STDFact-Trichomoniasis.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Ginocchio CC, Chapin K, Smith JS et al. Prevalence of *Trichomonas vaginalis* and co-infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in the USA as determined by the APTIMA *Trichomonas vaginalis* nucleic amplification assay. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2012 May 23.

<sup>3</sup> ACOG. Vaginitis. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 72. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2006; 107:1195-1206.

<sup>4</sup> CDC. Trichomoniasis - 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/trichomoniasis.htm>.