

TAKE ONE

# VAGINAL INFECTION? DON'T ASSUME IT'S YEAST!

**Not all vaginal infections are caused by yeast. In fact the most common form of vaginal infection, BV (bacterial vaginosis), is caused by bacteria, not yeast.**

**Bacterial vaginosis\*:  
more common and more serious**

Although many women have never heard of BV, it can be more serious than a yeast infection and—left untreated—may be associated with an increased chance of gynecological problems.

**Yeast infection  
treatments can't  
cure BV**

No medication for the treatment of yeast infections, including over-the-counter preparations, is effective in killing the bacteria that cause BV. Feminine hygiene products, such as deodorants and douches, can only hide odor temporarily—they can even make things worse by spreading bacteria to uninfected areas.

**Vaginal odor could be a sign of bacterial infection**

Before you treat yourself for a yeast infection, carefully consider your symptoms. BV is usually associated with unpleasant vaginal odor and a thin, milky discharge. Yeast symptoms are different, as can be seen in the chart above.

**See your health care professional**

If you have any of the BV symptoms listed here, consult a professional. Only your health care provider can diagnose and treat BV. Be specific when reporting odor and type of discharge to your health care provider. Do not douche or use deodorant sprays before a pelvic exam; these can make it more difficult to make an accurate diagnosis.

**If you have BV, ask about MetroGel-Vaginal**

Effective treatment for BV is available by prescription only through your health care professional. One medication, MetroGel-Vaginal, provides therapy for BV in only 5 days.

MetroGel-Vaginal is formulated in a water-based gel, which is clear, odorless, and won't stain clothing. Possible side effects of MetroGel-Vaginal include upset stomach, nausea, and metallic taste. Yeast overgrowth may occur while on therapy for BV. If you think you have BV, ask your health care professional if MetroGel-Vaginal is right for you.

**For more information about BV, call or write:**

## COMPARING SYMPTOMS

	<b>BV</b> (bacterial vaginosis)	<b>Yeast Infection</b> (vaginal candidiasis)
<b>Odor</b>	Vaginal discharge has an unpleasant odor	Vaginal discharge has no odor
<b>Discharge</b>	Discharge is thin, milky white or grey	Discharge is thick and white (like cottage cheese)
<b>Itching/irritation</b>	Vaginal itching/burning is sometimes present	Vaginal itching/burning is usually present
<b>Cause</b>	Caused by bacteria	Caused by yeast
<b>Treatment</b>	Requires specific antibacterial treatment available only by prescription	Once diagnosed by a health care professional, recurrent infections can be treated with over-the-counter products

**1-800-4BV-NEWS**

**Curatek®/TR®**

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Makers of

**MetroGel-Vaginal®**  
(metronidazole vaginal gel)  
**0.75% Vaginal Gel**

\*In the past, Bacterial vaginosis was known as *Gardnerella* vaginitis, *Haemophilus* vaginitis, or non-specific vaginitis.