



Bacterial Vaginosis – the basics

What is Bacterial Vaginosis?

- Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) is an infection in the vagina.
- BV is common in our community.

How do you get BV?

- It's normal for women to have good and bad bacteria in the vagina.
- BV is caused by having too much bad bacteria.
- BV is not a sexually transmissible infection (STI) – it's not passed on via sex. But the symptoms or signs are similar to an STI.

Symptoms - how would I know if I had BV?

- BV doesn't always have symptoms or signs.

Some women get:

- an itchy vagina, with burning
- white or grey fluid from the vagina. This might smell – especially after sex.
- The only way of knowing you have BV is to get tested.

Get tested

- Testing for BV is simple and done at the clinic.
- You can get tested for BV as part of your women's health check – just ask.
- If you have symptoms get tested as soon as you can.
- Pregnant women should get tested.
- The test is done in private. They will test a swab of fluid from your vagina.

Get treated

- BV is easy to treat.
- It's treated with vaginal cream and tablets.