

## **TRICHOMONIASIS**

### **What is it?**

Trichomoniasis, also known as trichomonal vaginitis, is a vaginal infection caused by a small parasite called *Trichomonas vaginalis*. It is contracted via sexual intercourse and is easily transmitted. The parasite lives in the vagina, urethra and bladder in women and the prostate gland and urethra in men. It can live for several hours on wet surfaces. It can survive for years without causing symptoms. 25% of women with trichomonads found in the vagina are asymptomatic. An even higher percentage of men show no symptoms.

### **Signs and symptoms (variable):**

- \* Foul, frothy, greenish vaginal discharge that is extremely irritating.
- \* Itching and discomfort in genital region, vaginal pain.
- \* Pain caused by urine touching inflamed tissue.
- \* Symptoms may begin or be worsened during or immediately after a menstrual period.
- \* Beware that your sexual partner may have no symptoms.

Call the office if your symptoms don't improve within one week of treatment, or if new ones appear.