

Expedited Partner Therapy: Trich

A Guide for Partners

Why am I getting this medicine?

- Your partner is being treated for Trichomoniasis (trich). **Trich** is an STI (sexually transmitted infection) that you can get through vaginal sex. During sex, the parasite can spread from a penis to a vagina, a vagina to a penis, or a vagina to another vagina. It is not common for the parasite to infect other body parts, like the hands, mouth, or anus.
- A medical provider has given your partner medicine to give to you to treat you for trich. You may have trich even without any symptoms. If you do not have trich, this medicine won't do anything. This medicine is so you don't develop serious health problems or pass along the infection to others. This is called **Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)**.
- **EPT** is an easy, fast, and private way for you to be treated. The medicine is safe and works well when used the right way.

Why should I take this medicine?

If not treated, trich can lead to serious health problems. It can make it more likely that you will get and spread other STIs, including genital inflammation which can make it easier to get HIV. Trich infections can last for months or years if not treated.

Serious health problems that can happen:

- **Pelvic Inflammatory Disease** - can cause pain and affects the reproductive organs.
- **Ectopic pregnancy** - a pregnancy in the fallopian tubes.
- **Infertility** - not being able to have children.

What is this medicine?

- A medicine that treats trich is **Metronidazole**. This is a **antibiotic** pill (medicine that help fight infection).
- This medicine will get rid of trich, but **will not treat other STIs**.
- You should not take this medicine if you are allergic to **Metronidazole**, or if you have serious health problems. Talk with a medical provider right away to see what treatment is best for you.
- If you have any signs of a more serious infection, get medical care right away. Signs include stomach or pelvic, or testicle pain, fever, nausea, or throwing up.

How should I take this medicine?

- Take all of your pills as instructed. It is important to finish all of your pills.
- You can take the medicine on a full (with food) or an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before eating or 2 hours after eating).
- **Do not drink alcohol while taking this medicine.** Wait at least 3 days after you finish taking your pills before drinking any alcohol.
- **If you throw up within an hour of taking the medicine, it will not work and you will need to get more.** Call the phone number below to plan a visit to a CHN clinic.

If you think you might have another STI, visit a CHN clinic to get tested.

After taking this medicine, what should I do?

- **Do not have sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) for 7 days after you and all your partners have finished treatment.** It takes a full week for the medicine to work.
- **Take all of your pills.** Wait for 7 days after taking your last pill to have sex.
- You should be tested again about 3 months after your treatment , even if your partner received treatment.

Are there any side effects?

- Not usually, but there can be side effects.

Common side effects that can happen:	Serious side effects are rare, but can happen:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diarrhea• Nausea• Stomach aches• Headaches• Throwing up	<p>Some people may have allergic reactions to the medicine. These reactions can cause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trouble breathing• Tightness in chest• Closing of throat• Swelling of lips or tongue

If you have any of the serious side effects after taking this medicine, call 911 or go to emergency room right away.