

BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS (BV)

Should it be considered a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)?

SYMPTOMS PER GENDER:

BV specifically affects the vaginal microbiome, which means **MEN ARE NOT** affected.¹

HARSH, UNCOMFORTABLE SYMPTOMS FOR WOMEN consisting of unusual vaginal discharge, vaginal odor, itching, and irritation.^{1,2}



CONSIDERED...
“JUST A
WOMAN’S
ISSUE”^{2,3}

Only women are currently treated for BV and not the sexual partner.

Currently, BV is **NOT** identified as a STI but is considered a common vaginal disorder.^{1,2}

IS IT TIME FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT IN HOW BV IS CLASSIFIED AND TREATED?²

A recent study showed that men can host and transmit the bacteria that causes BV,
AND
when both partners are treated, resulted in a lower rate of reoccurrence.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF BV IS RECLASSIFIED AS AN STI?

- ✓ It will replace Trichomonas as the number one nonviral STI in the United States.
- ✓ There will be a significant change in treatment protocols and healthcare providers will encourage a woman’s partner to share responsibility for transmission and treatment.
- ✓ Routine STI screenings may start to include BV testing.
- ✓ Improved treatment strategies and lower reoccurrence rates, which currently affect over half of women within three months of treatment.

References:

1. [Cleveland Clinic. BV.](#)
2. [Vodstrcil, L. Male Partner Treatment to Prevent Reoccurrence of BV. NEJM. March 6th, 2025.](#)
3. [LaMotte, S. Common vaginal condition is really an STD, study finds. CNN Health. March 6th, 2025.](#)