

## SEXUAL HEALTH PROFILE

The Sexual Health profile we offer is aimed towards detecting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and specifically the pathogenic organism that causes them. Below you will find a brief description of the pathogens we test for.

**CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS** is an obligate intracellular human pathogen. It is one of the three bacterial species in the genus Chlamydia. It has only been found living in human cells, causing the following conditions:

**In men**

1. Prostatitis
2. Epididymitis

**In women**

1. Cervicitis
2. Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
3. Ectopic pregnancy

**NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE** is a species of Gram-negative bacteria responsible for the sexually transmitted disease gonorrhoea. Gonorrhoea symptoms include a purulent discharge from the genitals which may be foul smelling, a burning sensation during urination and conjunctivitis.

**MYCOPLASMA GENITALIUM** is a small parasitic bacterium. It lives on the ciliated epithelial cells of the primate genital and respiratory tracts. It is the smallest known free-living bacterium. Humans can be infected engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse. It can be treated with antibiotics.

**UREAPLASMA UREALYTICUM** is a bacterium belonging to the family Mycoplasmataceae. *U. urealyticum* is part of the normal genital flora (microorganisms that constantly inhabit the human body) of both men and women. It is found in about 70% of sexually active humans. It can also cause disease, including non-specific urethritis and infertility. There are six recognised *Ureaplasma* species.

**TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS** is an anaerobic, parasitic flagellated protozoan. It is the most common pathogenic protozoan infection of humans in industrialized countries. It has an oval shape and it is flagellated. It is a sexually transmitted disease which can occur in females.

**GARDNERELLA VAGINALIS** is the only species of the Gardnerella genus and can cause bacterial vaginosis in some women. It grows as small, circular, convex, gray colonies. It can be isolated in genital cultures. It is associated microscopically with clue cells, which are epithelial cells covered in bacteria.

**HERPES SIMPLEX I/II** Herpes simplex virus 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and HSV-2) are two species of the herpes virus family. They can infect humans causing illnesses such as cold sores, chickenpox and varicella. HSV is transmitted during close contact with an infected person who is shedding virus from the skin or by sexual contact.

Useful websites for additional information:

1. For more information on sexually transmitted diseases visit the Center of Disease Control and Prevention at: <http://www.cdc.gov/STD/>
2. or MedLine Plus at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/sexuallytransmitteddiseases.html>
3. For more information on specific lab tests visit Lab tests online at: <http://www.labtestsonline.org/understanding/index.html>

## SEXUAL HEALTH

Chlamydia trachomatis  
N. gonorrhoea  
Mycoplasma genitalium  
Ureaplasma urealyticum  
Trichomonas vaginalis  
Gardnerella vaginalis  
Herpes Simplex I/II

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