

### Syndromic management of common lower genital tract infections

Syndrome	Symptoms	Findings on speculum examination	Type of infection	Treatment
Vaginal discharge syndrome	Vaginal discharge, vulval irritation, itching	<p>White vaginal discharge, which can be seen on the vulva, and with an abnormal vaginal odour</p> <p>Yellow or purulent discharge, the cervix may have punctate haemorrhages, giving rise to what has been referred to as "strawberry cervix".</p> <p>Curdy, white or creamy and thick, The discharge is not always curd-like (sometimes described as cottage-cheese-like in character) but can vary from watery to homogeneously thick.</p>	<p><i>Bacterial vaginosis (BV): polymicrobial disorder of the vaginal microbiome</i></p> <p><i>Trichomonas Vaginalis (TV)</i></p> <p><i>Candidiasis</i></p>	<p>Treatment should cover BV, TV and Candidiasis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metronidazole 400 mg or 500 mg, orally, twice daily for 7 days or Clindamycin 300 mg, orally, twice daily for 7 days</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metronidazole 2 grams, orally, single dose</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluconazole 150 mg (or 200mg), orally, single dose</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miconazole vaginal pessaries, 200 mg inserted at night for 3 nights</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clotrimazole vaginal tablet, 100 mg, inserted at night for 7 nights</li> </ul>

<b>Cervical infection</b>	About 50% women may be asymptomatic, others may experience dyspareunia and dysuria, sometimes vaginal discharge	Purulent cervical discharge on speculum examination, inflamed/erythematous cervix	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>  <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceftriaxone 250 mg, intramuscularly, single dose <i>plus</i> Azithromycin 1 gram, orally, single dose</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cefixime 400 mg, orally, single dose <i>plus</i> Azithromycin 1 gram, orally, single dose</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>*For people with symptom of vaginal discharge, WHO recommends treatment for N. gonorrhoeae and/or C. trachomatis and/or T. vaginalis on the same visit when molecular testing is not available.</i></b></p>				

Ref: Guidelines for the management of symptomatic sexually transmitted infections. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO, available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240024168>.