

TRICOMONIASIS SYMPTOMS BOTH MEN AND WOMEN IN PRIVATE HEALTH NETWORK OF RECIFE, PERNAMBUCO, BRAZIL.

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Trichomonas vaginalis Donné, 1836 is a flagellate protozoan that causes urogenital trichomoniasis with unlike symptomatology between the sexes because the signs and symptoms are much more evident in women. In order to evaluate this fact, 300 couples that were attended in the private health network answered a steered anamnesis if the results were positive for trichomoniasis in women's Pap smears. From there, the male partner was guided to the urologist in aim to confirm the same diagnosis and by a written permission acceptance the couple was asked about signs and symptoms of this disease. These were classified as absent, unusual, moderate and main symptoms. Among men, 233 (77.6%) had no signs or symptoms. In 37 (12.3%) of them the symptoms were unusual, such as discreet pain on urination act, rare pruritus, mild dyspareunia and absence of urethral discharge. In 17 (5.6%) of men complained of pain during urination, pruritus, dyspareunia and slight yellowish discharge at the end of urination act, which is considered moderate symptomatology. Only 13 (4.3%) of all men complained of main symptoms, such as severe pain on urination act, dyspareunia, intermittent itching and increased yellowish secretion independent of urinating act. Among women, the symptomatology was reversed from the comparison of men. Only 10 (3.3%) of the patients did not present genital symptoms, although trichomoniasis was positive in Pap smears. In 25 (8.3%) of the cases the women presented mild discomfort related to urination and intercourse without the presence of secretion or pruritus. In 33 (11%) of them, there was pruritus, burning and redness, dyspareunia and little yellow genital discharge, but no odor. The majority, 232 (77.3%) complained of intense pruritus, intense burning when urinating and intense yellowish or greenish discharge with unpleasant odor. The different intensities of the symptoms were not always related to the couples as partners, being quite variable the complaints or absence of signs and symptoms between them. It is important to discover the importance of the male like "healthy-carrier" of *T. vaginalis* bringing doubts from the medical-sanitary point of view regarding the genital transmission, prevention and treatment of the couple. The understanding of both male and female partners are difficult about the transmission processes on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). It is necessary the use of interdisciplinary guidance among physicians, psychologists and health professionals regarding health education, prevention and treatment programs, especially the treatment of couples affected by trichomoniasis and other STIs to prevent recontamination or relapses.