

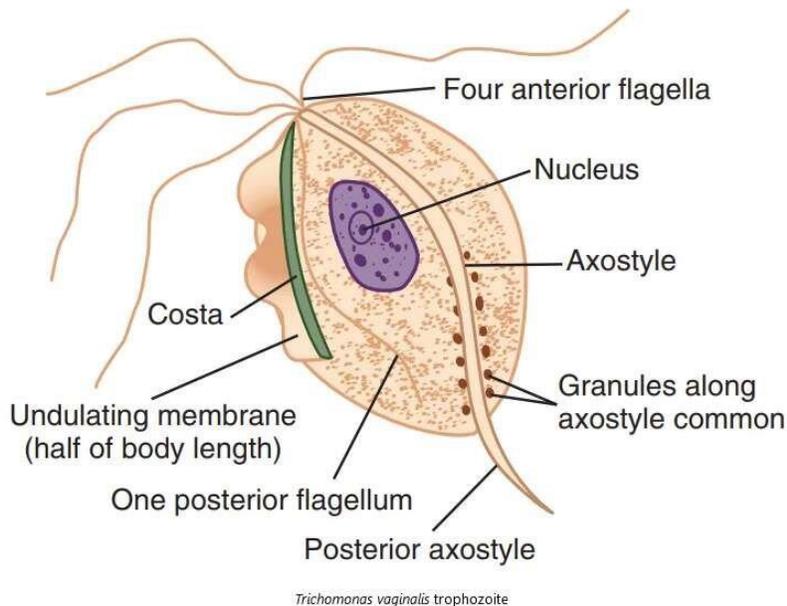
# ***Trichomonas vaginalis***

Kingdom: Protista  
Phylum: Protozoa  
Class: Flagellata  
Genus: ***Trichomonas***  
Species: ***vaginalis***

***Trichomonas vaginalis*** is a flagellate protozoan that inhabits mucosal lining of vagina of female; occasionally found in the prostate gland and seminal vesicles of male. It also shelters on urethral lining of both sexes. It causes us trichomoniasis or vaginitis, a sexually transmitted disease (STD). It is mostly found in the people engaged in prostitution and people having unsafe sexual practices.

## **Structure**

*T. vaginalis* exists only in trophozoite form. Cystic form is absent. Its trophozoite is pear-shaped with both ends gradually tapering, characterized by four anterior flagella for movement, a fifth flagellum within an undulating membrane, a prominent nucleus, and an axostyle (rigid rod) extending from the posterior end.



## **Mode of infection**

It is monogenetic parasite, completes its life cycle in single host i.e. human. Trophozoites are transmitted from person to person through unsafe and unhygienic sexual practices with infected person.

Sometimes, sharing of under- garments, towels, toilets seat/ commode etc. with infected persons can transmit the parasite.

## **Pathogenicity**

The infectious disease produced by them is known as vaginalis, urethritis, or trichomoniasis.

## **Symptoms in women**

Trichomoniasis can cause symptoms in women:

- yellow-green discharge from your vagina – this may look frothy or smell like fish
- itching, pain, soreness, swelling or redness in or around your vagina
- pain when peeing or having vaginal sex
- tummy pain

## **Symptoms in men**

Trichomoniasis can cause symptoms in men:

- discharge from your penis
- pain when peeing
- needing to pee often
- pain or soreness in your penis, testicles (balls) or bottom, or when you ejaculate.

## **Prevention**

- Avoiding unsafe sexual intercourse and unhygienic sexual practices with infected person.
- Avoiding sharing of undergarments, towels, toilet seat/ commode, etc. with infected persons.
- Use of condoms.
- Maintain personal hygiene.

## **Treatment**

- Metronidazole, Aureomycin, Terramycin etc. are some medicines to cure trichomoniasis.
- Treatment of both sexual partners is required for effective treatment.