

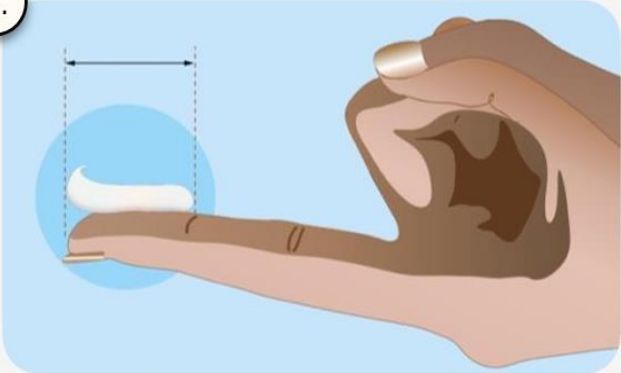
Partner Treatment for Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) Decision Making Tool

This tool is specific for couples in a sexual relationship where the person with BV has a partner with a penis. Partner Treatment (PT) is recommended for ongoing/regular partners with a penis of people treated for BV with recommended therapy. It involves the person with the penis taking 400mg of metronidazole orally combined with applying 2% clindamycin cream to the penile skin, both twice daily for 7 days.

Suitability	Presentation	Recommendations	Patient Education
<p>PT is most appropriate for</p> <p>Ongoing/regular partners with a penis of people diagnosed and receiving recommended treatment for BV</p> <p>Couples described above who are in closed relationships without concurrent partners.</p> <p>Clinicians should use their judgement about the benefit of PT where there are concurrent partners.</p> <p>This specific PT regimen should not be used for</p> <p>People with allergies to metronidazole and/or clindamycin</p> <p>People at risk of intimate partner violence where discussion of PT may place the person with BV at risk</p> <p>Same sex couples where both have a vagina</p>	<p>Person with vaginal BV who only has casual partners with a penis</p> <p>Person with vaginal BV who has an ongoing regular partner with a penis who is <u>not at your clinic</u> today</p> <p>Person with vaginal BV who has an ongoing regular partner with a penis who is <u>at your clinic</u> today</p> <p>Partner with a penis attends your clinic without their partner with BV</p>	<p>Treat with a first line recommended antibiotic regimen for vaginal BV</p> <p>Treat person with vaginal BV with a first line recommended antibiotic regimen for BV</p> <p>If the <u>partner with a penis is not present</u> then emphasize the need for them to access PT as soon as possible, particularly while their partner with a vagina is being treated and before resuming sex.</p> <p>Options include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Partner being booked in for a face to face appointment.Partner being offered telehealth.Partner attending their own practitioner <p>Treat person with vaginal BV with a first line recommended antibiotic regimen for BV</p> <p>If suitable, prescribe PT by following the instructions to the right and overleaf</p> <p>Ascertain when BV was diagnosed and treated in the partner with a vagina</p> <p>The optimal time to offer PT is if the index has been appropriately diagnosed and managed for BV, couple treatment is synchronous, and/or they have not resumed sex before antibiotic completion.</p> <p>Recommend the index is re-assessed for BV if there is any uncertainty, so PT can be prescribed at the time where it will be maximally effective</p> <p>If suitable, prescribe PT by following the PT instructions to the right and overleaf</p>	<p>For people with a vagina and BV</p> <p>Provide information on the sexual transmissibility of BV and BV-bacteria</p> <p>Advise that condoms provide protection against BV</p> <p>Alcohol should be avoided during metronidazole treatment</p> <p>Additional information if recommending PT</p> <p>Discuss sexual transmission of the BV-bacteria from the penile urethra <u>and</u> penile skin and explain why two antibiotics are needed to increase BV cure.</p> <p>Emphasize the need for high adherence to all antibiotics, to synchronize treatment, and to avoid condomless penile-vaginal sex until both partners finish antibiotics</p> <p>Explain that PT is less effective where there are other concurrent untreated partners, and when doses of either antibiotic are missed</p> <p>PT Instructions</p> <p>PT for couples where one has a vagina and one has a penis involves oral metronidazole 400mg twice daily for 7 days combined with 2% clindamycin cream applied from the tip to the base of the penis, having retracted the foreskin if present</p> <p>Ask patients to complete all 14 doses of each antibiotic and refrain from until both partners have completed all antibiotics</p> <p>Alcohol should be avoided during treatment</p>

How to apply clindamycin cream

1.




Squeeze a line of cream from the tip of your finger to the first crease, as shown

2.



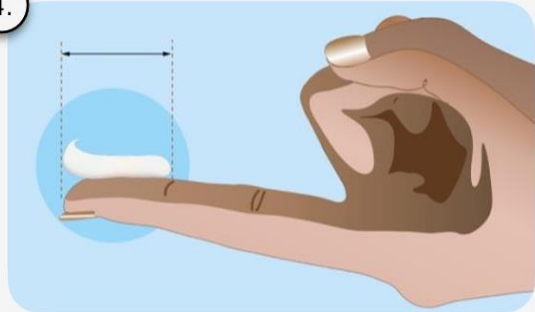
If you have a foreskin, pull it back before applying the cream

3.



Rub the cream over the skin of the head of the penis, covering the whole head from the tip of the penis to the groove just below the head

4.



Squeeze a second line of cream from the tip of your index finger to the first crease

5.



Rub this second line of cream from the groove under the head of the penis to the base, making sure to cover the entire shaft. Gently rub the cream into the skin

Further resources and publications

BV and PT Information

www.mshc.org.au/Bacterial-vaginosis-in-focus

Treatment Guidelines

www.mshc.org.au/bv-treatment-guidelines

Partner Treatment Study Publication & Editorial

Vodstrcil et al New England Journal of Medicine 2025 Mar 6;392(10):947-957.
Muzny and Sobel. N Engl J Med. 2025 Mar 6;392(10):1026-102

PT Consumer Experience

King et al Patient 2025 Mar 14.Online ahead of print.



Video
Instructions



More
Information



Monash Video
on MPT



MPT Publication



MPT Consumer
Experience Publication