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## Bacterial Vaginosis

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_ Admission: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I. The client/caregiver can define bacterial vaginosis.**

- A. It is a condition in women where the normal balance of bacteria in the vagina is disrupted and certain bacteria produce an overgrowth.
- B. It is the most common vaginal infection in women of childbearing age.
- C. Symptoms can be
  - Abnormal vaginal discharge with an unpleasant odor
  - Odor that can have strong fish-like odor, especially after intercourse
  - Discharge that is usually thin, white, or gray
  - Complaints of burning during urination
  - Burning around outside of vagina

**II. The client/caregiver can define behaviors that increase risk for this disease.**

- A. Having a new sex partner or multiple sex partners
- B. Douching
- C. The use of an intrauterine device for contraception

**III. The client/caregiver can list possible complications.**

- A. Increased susceptibility to HIV infection if exposed
- B. Increases chance of HIV-infected woman passing HIV to sex partner
- C. Increases the risk of the development of pelvic inflammatory disease, which can cause infertility or increase risk of ectopic pregnancy.
- D. If pregnant, an increased risk for complications of pregnancy, such as premature delivery or low birth weight of newborn.
- E. Increased susceptibility to other sexually transmitted diseases

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**IV. The client/caregiver can list treatment and prevention measures.**

- A. Treatment with antibiotic therapy is recommended.
- B. Prevention measures
  1. Be abstinent.
  2. Limit number of sex partners.
  3. Do not douche.
  4. Use all medicine prescribed for treatment.

**RESOURCES**

Community Health Clinic

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/std/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/)Healthy People 2010  
[www.health.gov/healthypeople](http://www.health.gov/healthypeople)**REFERENCES**

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