Correspondence

Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be typed double spaced (including the references) and be signed by all authors

TO THE EDITOR, Genitourinary Medicine

Fewer Trichomonas vaginalis organisms in vaginas of infected women during menstruation

Sir,

A recent paper by Demeš et al reports lower counts of Trichomonas vaginalis organisms in the vagina during menstruation.1 The authors considered that this was caused by immunological factors within menstrual blood. Other explanations for this result could also be given. The menstrual flow may "flush out" the vagina and thus decrease the number of organisms present. No mention was made of the use of tampons, which absorb vaginal secretions and organisms. Constituents of tampons may alter vaginal microbiology. Finally, the raised vaginal pH during menstruation may also be a factor.

Yours faithfully,

DM Coker
I Ahmed-Jushuf

Department of Genitourinary Medicine,
Royal Liverpool Hospital,
Prescot Street,
Liverpool L7 8XP

Reference

TO THE EDITOR, Genitourinary Medicine

Fewer Trichomonas vaginalis organisms in vaginas of infected women during menstruation

Sir,

My colleagues and I agree with Drs Coker and Ahmed-Jushuf that menstruation is a complex process with multifactorial changes in vaginal environment, but if we considered that menstrual blood would only mechanically "flush out" vaginal micro-organisms all women would have decreased numbers of trichomonads and also bacteria during bleeding, which is not the case. In some patients no change or even increase in microbial counts was recorded during menstruation (see our results and pertinent references).

Our data about the concentrations of complement in menstrual blood and the susceptibility of T vaginalis to complement mediated lysis offer one explanation for these in vivo observations.1

The women in our study did not use intravaginal tampons during menstruation, which should have been mentioned in our paper.

Yours faithfully,

Pavol Demeš

Department of Pathology, Immunology Laboratories,
Cancer Center/Clinical Building,
College of Medicine,
University of South Alabama,
Mobile, Alabama 36688, USA

Reference

TO THE EDITOR, Genitourinary Medicine

Cryotherapy compared with trichloroacetic acid in treating genital warts

Sir,

I am disappointed that details of the concentration of trichloroacetic acid used by Godley et al (Genitourin Med 1987;63:390–2) to treat genital warts were omitted. Surely, we should expect more basic information when two treatment regimens are being compared?

Yours faithfully,

RS Pattman

Department of Genitourinary Medicine,
Newcastle General Hospital,
Westgate Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6BE
Cryotherapy compared with trichloroacetic acid in treating genital warts
R S Pattman

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