sets of negative tests for TV and other STDs at one and three week intervals following treatment. Her casual consort in London was untraceable.

*Trichomonas vaginalis* is a cosmopolitan flagellate of the genital organs in adults. Transmission occurs primarily through sexual intercourse as the parasite has no resistant stage. Infection is commonly symptomless in the male and produces a severe vaginitis in the female. There is little evidence to support direct female to female transmission resulting from poor standards of sanitation and hygiene. Whittington,1 showed that the *Trichomonas vaginalis* organism in vaginal exudate can survive up to 48 hours when maintained at 10°C. Hesseltine et al (1942),2 produced the clinical entity of vaginal trichomoniasis by inoculation of the human vagina with vaginal trichomonads.

We believe this is the first reported case of *Trichomonas vaginalis* infection acquired probably in a lesbian relationship transmitted from partner’s vaginal exudates through masturbating fingers.

K Sivakumar R Basu Roy

Dept of Genitourinary Medicine, Royal Victoria Hospital, Gloucester Road, Bournemouth BH7 6JF, UK

References


TO THE EDITOR, Genitourinary Medicine

Falling prevalence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection among female patients attending the Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine, Bournemouth

Sir,

Over the last 5 years we have noticed a significant fall in the prevalence of chlamydia infection among female patients attending our department. It has fallen from 16–57% culture positives in 1984 to 3–23% in the first six months of 1989. A national fall in the prevalence of syphilis, gonorrhoea and *Trichomonas vaginalis* infections have been reported before.1 We feel this fall is mainly due to change of sexual behaviour as a result of the AIDS epidemic, health education, effective treatment, contact tracing and epidemiological treatment of female consorts of male patients with non-specific urethritis. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and particularly *Chlamydia trachomatis* cause 40–70% of pelvic inflammatory disease in the western world.2 If this trend in the falling prevalence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections continues, we expect to see fewer cases of pelvic inflammatory disease as well as its complications in the future. The falling incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly of *Trichomonas vaginalis*, gonorrhoea, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, confirms that the heterosexuals also, have modified their sexual behavioural response, contrary to reports in the national press.

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References


TO THE EDITOR, Genitourinary Medicine

Declining incidence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* women attending a provincial genitourinary medicine clinic

Sir,

Endocervical cultures for *Chlamydia*

Table

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