

## **Bacterial Vaginosis (B.V)**

### **What is it?**

- It is a change in the normal bacteria of the vagina.
- Every woman has harmless bacteria in her vagina; in bacterial vaginosis some of the bacteria multiply too much.

### **What causes it?**

- The exact cause is unknown.
- Because it is a bacterial imbalance some things make an imbalance more likely, douching, not wiping from front to back, strong perfumed soaps.

### **How do I know if I have it?**

- Some women have an abnormal discharge with an unpleasant odor, which can become more noticeable when mixed with semen.
- The discharge can be white or gray.
- Some women report no symptoms at all.
- Today you have tested positive for B.V. by a simple acid test we do at the beginning of each procedure.

### **How do I treat it?**

- You will be given an antibiotic called Flagyl or a prescription for Flagyl. Take with your noon meal.
- Take all 8 of these pills with your noon meal.
- This drug sometimes causes nausea or an unpleasant metal aftertaste.
- Do not drink alcohol for 24 hrs. Mixing alcohol with this medicine can cause severe nausea and vomiting.

### **What about my partner?**

- Your partner does not need to be treated because B.V. has not been proven to be an STI (sexually transmitted infection).

### **For more Information:**

The Birth Control Center 413-5735  
Planned Parenthood 423-3737  
Woman's Health Options 484-1124  
STI Clinic 413-5156