Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) is one of the most common vaginal infections. It occurs when the normal balance of bacteria in the vagina is disrupted.

**Signs and Symptoms**
- *Some women do not have symptoms.*
- Unpleasant vaginal odor
- Abnormal discharge from the vagina, usually a white or gray color

**What is BV?**
- BV occurs when there is a disturbance in the normal balance of bacteria in the vagina. Why this happens is not known. You are more likely to get BV if you:
  - Have a new sex partner or multiple sex partners
  - Do not use condoms with vaginal sex
  - Douche

**Prevention**
- Abstain from vaginal sex.
- Use condoms or barriers consistently and correctly during vaginal sex.
- Limit number of sex partners.
- Do not douche.

**Treatment**
- See a health care provider for an exam and tests to figure out diagnosis and best treatment.
- Treatment is medicines (antibiotics) prescribed by a health care provider.
- Male partners do not need to be treated.
- BV often comes back after treatment. Consistent condom use may decrease how often BV comes back.

**If Not Treated**
- Continued symptoms
- May increase risk for getting HIV and other STDs
- During pregnancy:
  - Premature delivery
  - Increased risk of getting PID after a surgery such as a hysterectomy or an abortion

**If You Have BV**
- Seek medical care, including STD tests.
- Take all medicines prescribed, even after your symptoms go away.
- Limit number of sex partners and use condoms correctly to prevent BV from coming back.

For more information about STDs or for getting tested and treated, visit our web site…

[www.kingcounty.gov/health/std](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/std)