

2 **United Kingdom National Guideline on the Management of *Trichomonas vaginalis* 2021**

3  
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5  
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19  
20 ***New in the 2021 guidelines:***

21  
22 Updated sections

- 23 • when it is appropriate to screen asymptomatic women for *Trichomonas vaginalis*
- 24 • diagnosis, incorporating information on nucleic acid amplification tests
- 25 • management of infection, including those refractory to first line treatment

26

27 **Introduction and Methodology**

28

29 Objectives

30 The main objective of this guideline is to assist practitioners in managing individuals diagnosed with  
31 *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV). It offers recommendations on the diagnostic tests, treatment regimens and health  
32 promotion principles needed for the effective management of TV. It covers the management of the initial  
33 presentation, as well as how to prevent transmission and future re-infection.

34 It is aimed primarily at people aged 16 years or older (see the BASHH guideline for children and young people  
35 for those under 16 <https://www.bashhguidelines.org/media/1262/children-and-yp-2021.pdf> ) presenting to health  
36 care professionals, working in departments offering specialist care in sexually transmitted infection (STI)  
37 management within the United Kingdom. However, the principles of the recommendations are applicable across  
38 all levels of STI care providers (N.B. non-specialist services may need to develop, where appropriate, local care  
39 pathways).

40  
41 Search strategy:

42 This guideline was produced according to specifications set out in the BASHH Framework for guideline  
43 development and assessment' (2015, updated 2019) accessed at  
44 <https://www.bashhguidelines.org/media/1229/2015-guidelines-framework-amended-dec-2019.pdf>. It has been  
45 updated by reviewing the previous TV guideline (2014) and medical literature since its publication using  
46 abstracts and articles in the English language with relevance for "human" infection. Where there was a paucity of  
47 randomised control trials and high quality evidence, expert judgement was considered. Search terms:  
48 *Trichomonas vaginalis*; *Trichomonas* infections (use for trichomoniasis) and expanded to include *Trichomonas*  
49 vaginitis. Sources: OVID; Medline; PubMed; National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE); NHS  
50 evidence; Cochrane Library and guidelines produced by: the International Union against STIs (IUSTI), BASHH  
51 and the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC). For all databases, all abstracts were retrieved and then those  
52 with possible relevance were selected.

53  
54 A patient representative from the BASHH Public Panel was involved in all stages of guideline and PIL  
55 development.

56  
57 Equality impact assessment

58 An assessment of the guideline and its recommendations was undertaken to ensure the principles of equality  
59 and diversity were adhered to.

60

1 Piloting and feedback

2 Following this consultation, the guideline will be piloted for validation by the CEG and a number of BASHH  
3 pilot sites using a standardised feedback form. The final guideline will be approved by the CEG and a review  
4 date agreed before publication on the BASHH website.

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DRAFT

1 **Aetiology**

2 Causative organism

3 *Trichomonas vaginalis* is a flagellated protozoan. In women, the organism is found in the vagina, urethra and  
4 paraurethral glands. Urethral infection is present in 90% of infected women, although the urethra is the sole site  
5 of infection in fewer than 5% of cases. In men, infection is usually of the urethra, although trichomonads have  
6 been isolated from the subpreputial sac and lesions of the penis.

7  
8 Please note that TV is not a known issue for people with a neovagina following gender reassignment surgery  
9 (N.B. when the guideline refers to a vagina, it is not referring to a neovagina). No adequate quality data on TV  
10 infection in transgender men or women were available for inclusion in this guideline and the words 'men',  
11 'women', 'male' and 'female' refer to cisgender individuals unless otherwise stated.

12  
13 Transmission

14 In adults, transmission is almost exclusively through sexual intercourse. Due to site specificity, infection can only  
15 follow intravaginal or intraurethral inoculation of the organism.

16  
17 **Clinical Features**

18  
19 **Females [1-3]**

20 Symptoms

- 21 • 10-50% are asymptomatic.
- 22 • The commonest symptoms include vaginal discharge, vulval itching, dysuria, or offensive odour, but these  
23 are not specific for TV.
- 24 • Occasionally the presenting complaint is of lower abdominal discomfort or vulval ulceration.

25  
26 Signs

- 27 • Vaginal discharge is present in up to 70% - varying in consistency from thin and scanty to profuse and thick;  
28 the classical frothy yellow discharge occurs in 10-30% of women.
- 29 • Vulvitis and vaginitis are associated with trichomoniasis.
- 30 • Approximately 2% of patients will have strawberry cervix appearance to the naked eye. Higher rates are  
31 seen on colposcopic examination.
- 32 • 5-15% will have no abnormalities on examination.

33  
34 **Males [4-6]**

35 Symptoms

- 36 • 15-50% diagnosed with TV are asymptomatic and men usually present as the sexual partners of infected  
37 women.
- 38 • The commonest symptomatic presentation is with urethral discharge and/or dysuria.
- 39 • Other symptoms include urethral irritation and urinary frequency.
- 40 • Rarely, the patient may complain of a copious purulent urethral discharge, or symptoms of complications  
41 such as prostatitis.

42  
43 Signs

- 44 • Urethral discharge (20-60%) - usually small or moderate amounts only, and/or dysuria.
- 45 • No signs, even in the presence of symptoms suggesting urethritis: one recent prospective study of infected  
46 TV contacts found 77.3% were asymptomatic.
- 47 • Rarely balanoposthitis.

48  
49 Complications

50 There is increasing evidence that TV infection can have a detrimental outcome on pregnancy and is associated  
51 with preterm delivery and low birth weight [7-9]. However, further research is needed to confirm these  
52 associations and to prove that the association is causal. TV infection at delivery may predispose to maternal  
53 postpartum sepsis [10].

54  
55 Some studies have shown treatment of TV infection in pregnancy to have a negative impact on the pregnancy  
56 [11-13] but others have shown no association between treatment for TV and pre-term delivery or low birth weight  
57 [14]. Screening of asymptomatic individuals for TV infection in pregnancy is therefore not currently  
58 recommended. (Grade 1B)

59

1 Multiple reports support an epidemiological association between HIV and trichomoniasis. There is evidence that  
2 trichomonas infection may enhance HIV transmission [15-18] and there may be an increased risk of TV infection  
3 in those that are HIV positive [19].  
4

## 5 **Diagnosis**

6 Testing for TV should be undertaken in patients complaining of vaginal discharge or vulvitis, or found to have  
7 evidence of vulvitis, and/or vaginitis on examination (Grade 1A). Testing is recommended for TV contacts and  
8 should be considered in those with persistent penile urethritis (Grade 2B).  
9

10 Screening of asymptomatic women may be appropriate in settings such as sexual health services in  
11 geographical areas of high prevalence and/or in women with associated risk factors (Grade 2B). A study of  
12 national STI data, between 2009-2011 in England, found rates of TV were highest in London and the West  
13 Midlands. In all patients, TV was significantly associated with older age, non-white ethnicity (particularly black  
14 Caribbean and black 'other' ethnic groups), and current gonorrhoea or chlamydia infection in women [20, 21].  
15

### 16 Sites sampled

17 Females [1,2,22,23]

- 18 • If the patient is symptomatic and microscopy is available, then a swab taken from the posterior fornix of the  
19 vagina at the time of speculum examination is recommended (Grade 1A).
- 20 • Self-administered vaginal swabs are likely to give equivalent results to clinician-taken swabs when using  
21 nucleic acid amplification tests NAATs and the test of choice if microscopy is not being performed (Grade 1A)  
22 [24,25].
- 23 • Urine testing has been evaluated with some NAATs and has shown acceptable sensitivity in the range 88-  
24 90%.

25  
26 Males [26, 27]

- 27 • Clinician taken urethral swabs or self-taken penile-meatal swabs will diagnose approximately 80% cases  
28 using NAATs and is the recommended sample (Grade 1A).
- 29 • Urine is currently approved for only one NAAT.

### 30 Laboratory investigations

#### 31 Microscopy

32  
33 Microscopy remains a simple and rapid test to perform within any clinic that has access to a microscope and a  
34 microscopist (Grade 1A). The specificity with trained personnel is high, although the sensitivity is reported to be  
35 as low as 40-60% in vaginal samples [22,23,28-32] in some studies and lower in men [32,33], and so a negative  
36 result should be interpreted with caution.  
37

38  
39 Detection of motile trichomonads by light-field microscopy can be achieved by collection of vaginal discharge  
40 using a swab or loop, which is then mixed with a small drop of saline on a glass slide and a coverslip placed on  
41 top. The wet preparation should be read within 10 minutes of collection, as the trichomonads will quickly lose  
42 motility and be more difficult to identify [34]. The slide should be scanned, firstly at low magnification (x100), and  
43 then at a higher magnification (x400) to confirm the morphology of any trichomonads and to visualise the  
44 flagella. Microscopy as a diagnostic aid for TV has the advantage that it can be performed near to the patient  
45 and in a clinic setting. The sensitivity is highest in patients presenting with vaginal discharge and a visualisation  
46 of motile trichomonads in these patients indicates the presence of infection.  
47

48 Detection of TV by staining dead organisms with acridine orange can give a higher sensitivity than wet  
49 microscopy [35,36] but is not widely used.  
50

#### 51 Point of care tests

52 Point of care tests for the detection of TV have been described [32,33,37-41] of which the OSOM® Trichomonas  
53 Rapid Test (Sekisui Diagnostics, USA) has demonstrated a high sensitivity (80-94%) and specificity (>95%)  
54 (depending on the comparator) [32,33,37-39,42]. This test requires no instrumentation, provides a result within  
55 30 mins and is a suitable alternative to culture or molecular testing. Although these tests are more sensitive than  
56 those requiring vaginal wet preparation, false positives might occur, especially in populations with a low  
57 prevalence of disease. Consideration should be given to confirming positives in that situation. Whilst local  
58 validation may recommend use of the OSOM® assay for specimen types other than vaginal swabs this assay  
59 should not be used to test urine from male patients as low sensitivity (38%) and specificity (83%) has been  
60 demonstrated when compared with a NAAT [38].  
61

#### 62 Molecular detection

1 NAATs offer the highest sensitivity for the detection of TV. They should be the test of choice where resources  
2 allow and are the current 'gold standard' (Grade 1A). US Federal Drug Agency (FDA) approved commercial  
3 assays are available which can detect TV nucleic material in vaginal or endocervical swabs and in urine samples  
4 from women with sensitivities of 88%-100% and specificities of 95 -100%, depending on the specimen and  
5 reference standard [40,41,43-45]. The site sampled should be that recommended by the manufacturer of the  
6 NAAT kit in use by the local laboratory.

7  
8 Detection of TV in specimens from male patients (urine, penile-meatal and urethral swabs) is currently outside of  
9 most commercial NAAT assay scope therefore local validation would be necessary. However, sensitivities of 90-  
10 100% and specificities of >99% have been reported depending on the specimen and reference standard  
11 [41,44,46]. In addition to offering superior detection of the organism, use of NAAT assays may be more cost-  
12 effective than other diagnostic methods [47].

### 13 Culture

14 Historically considered 'the gold standard', culture has proven less sensitive than molecular testing. It has a  
15 higher sensitivity (88%) compared to microscopy [28,30,31,33] and can detect TV in men [32,33]. A  
16 commercially available culture system (InPouch TV; BioMed Diagnostics, USA), offers many advantages over  
17 previous culture media such as Diamond's medium [48-50]. Once inoculated the pouches can be transferred to  
18 the laboratory for incubation and the entire pouch read microscopically each day for five days, negating the need  
19 to prepare wet preparations every day that only sample a portion of the culture medium.

## 20 **Management**

### 21 General Advice

22 Sexual partner(s) should be treated simultaneously (Grade 1B). Patients should be advised to avoid sexual  
23 intercourse for at least one week and until they and their partner(s) have completed treatment and follow-up.

24  
25 Patients should be given a detailed explanation of their condition with particular emphasis on the long-term  
26 implications for the health of themselves and their partner(s). This should be reinforced by giving them clear and  
27 accurate written information. (See [www.bashh.org/guidelines](http://www.bashh.org/guidelines) for a TV patient information leaflet).

### 28 Further Investigations

29 Screening for coexistent sexually transmitted infections should be undertaken in anyone diagnosed with TV  
30 (Grade 1A).

## 31 **Treatment**

32 Systemic antibiotic therapy with nitroimidazoles is required to effect a permanent cure due to the high frequency  
33 of infection of the urethra and paraurethral glands in addition to the vagina [51]. A meta-analysis of single-dose  
34 oral metronidazole compared with multidose oral metronidazole for the treatment of TV in women found an  
35 increased risk of treatment failure with single dose treatment (RR 1.87 (95% Confidence Intervals 1.23–2.82; p=  
36 <0.01). [52]. A subsequent RCT of metronidazole 500mg twice daily for 7 days versus metronidazole 2g single  
37 dose for the treatment of TV in women reported a positive test-of-cure in 11% of the 7-day dose group versus  
38 19% in the single-dose group (relative risk 0.55, 95% CI 0.34–0.70; p= <0.0001) [53].

39  
40 Intravaginal metronidazole gel treatment does not reach therapeutic levels in the urethra, periurethral and  
41 perivaginal glands. A small study comparing 0.75% metronidazole vaginal gel twice daily for 7 days with 7 days  
42 oral metronidazole reported 44% parasitological cure rate with metronidazole vaginal gel compared with 100%  
43 with oral metronidazole [54]. This cure rate is unacceptably low so intravaginal metronidazole alone should not  
44 be used except in circumstances where oral nitroimidazoles are contraindicated. There is a spontaneous cure  
45 rate in the order of 20-25%.

### 46 Recommended regime (Grade 1A)

- 47 • Metronidazole 400-500mg twice daily for 7 days

48  
49 While it is recognised that 400mg is the standard dose of metronidazole used in the UK, most of the recent  
50 evidence is based on 500mg and this dose is also listed in the British National Formulary (BNF). It is therefore  
51 recommended to use 500mg twice daily for 7 days where 500mg tablets are available. 400mg twice daily for 7  
52 days is an acceptable alternative. The combination of alcohol and metronidazole has been said to cause  
53 disulfiram type reactions in about 10% of individuals (metronidazole SmPC) and should be avoided for 48 hours  
54 post last dose.

1  
2 Alternative regimens

3 Metronidazole 2g orally in a single dose (Grade 2A)

4  
5 Pregnancy and breast feeding

6 400mg oral metronidazole twice daily for seven days in preference to the use of short high-dose regimens which  
7 are not recommended during pregnancy (Grade 1A).

8  
9 Meta-analyses have concluded that there is no evidence of teratogenicity from the use of metronidazole during  
10 the first trimester of pregnancy [55-58]. Although there is currently no signal that metronidazole is a human  
11 teratogen, general prescribing advice for pregnant women is to use the lowest effective dose of a medicine to  
12 reduce the risk of possible teratogenic effects above a threshold dose specific to the exposure, although this is  
13 likely to be influenced by inter-individual variation in drug metabolism. No studies were located which  
14 compare/comment on feto-maternal outcomes for women treated with a single high dose of metronidazole vs. a  
15 course of lower doses, and no threshold dose for metronidazole teratogenicity has been demonstrated. In the  
16 absence of data on the use of single high stat doses in pregnancy and the theoretical risk of a threshold dose  
17 above which teratogenicity may occur in humans.

18  
19 Metronidazole can be used in all stage of pregnancy and during breast feeding. Metronidazole is likely to cure  
20 trichomoniasis, but it is not known whether treatment will have any effect on pregnancy outcomes [55].  
21 Symptomatic patients should be treated at diagnosis, although some clinicians have preferred to defer treatment  
22 until the second trimester. The British National Formulary advises against high dose regimens in pregnancy.  
23 Metronidazole enters breast milk and may affect its taste. The manufacturers recommend avoiding high doses if  
24 breastfeeding.

25  
26 Tinidazole is FDA pregnancy category C (animal studies have demonstrated an adverse event, and no  
27 adequate, well-controlled studies in pregnant women have been conducted), and its safety in pregnant women  
28 has not been well-evaluated. The manufacturer states that the use of tinidazole in the first trimester is  
29 contraindicated.

30  
31 People living with HIV (Grade 1A)

32 The recommended treatment regimen should also be used in those living with HIV. A randomized clinical trial  
33 demonstrated that 500mg of metronidazole twice daily for 7 days was superior to a 2g single oral dose of  
34 metronidazole for trichomoniasis among HIV-infected women [59].

35  
36 Allergy

37 There is no effective alternative to 5 nitroimidazole compounds. Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported  
38 in patients using metronidazole and tinidazole and it is unknown whether there is cross reactivity between the  
39 two agents. It is important to take an accurate history to establish that a true allergy exists. Adverse reactions  
40 which may occur include anaphylaxis, skin rashes, pustular eruptions, pruritis, flushing, urticaria, and fever [60].  
41 In cases of true allergy, desensitization to metronidazole has been described in case reports and could be  
42 considered (see Appendix 1) [61,62]. Helms et al [63] reported data collected from clinicians who consulted the  
43 US CDC on 59 patients with suspected hypersensitivity to metronidazole. All 15 patients who underwent  
44 metronidazole desensitization and were treated with metronidazole had their infections eradicated. Alternative  
45 treatment regimens were used for 17 study subjects with a cure rate of only 29.4%.

46  
47  
48 Treatment failure

49 Persistent or recurrent TV is due to inadequate therapy, re-infection, or resistance. Therefore check:

- 50  
51
- 52 • Compliance and exclude vomiting of metronidazole
  - 53 • Sexual history for possibility of re-infection and ask if partner(s) have been treated

54 Development of resistance against metronidazole and other nitroimidazoles can be due to aerobic and anaerobic  
55 resistance. In the USA, it is estimated that 5% of clinical isolates of TV exhibit some degree of metronidazole  
56 resistance, predominantly low level [65]. Clinical and microbiological cure rates were higher in women with  
57 previous treatment failure who were treated in accordance with a treatment protocol utilising the results of a  
58 resistance test [66]. Clinical isolates resistant to metronidazole can be resistant to tinidazole but usually with  
59 significantly lower minimal lethal concentrations to tinidazole [67,68]. In vitro resistance may not predict clinical  
60 response to treatment [67] which may be relative rather than absolute and may be overcome by high dose  
61 metronidazole or tinidazole therapy. Tinidazole has a longer serum half-life [69], good tissue penetration, a  
62 better side-effect profile and lower levels of resistance than metronidazole [65,68].

1  
2 Treatment protocol for non-response to standard TV therapy (having excluded re-infection and non-adherence)

3 **1. Repeat course of 7-day standard therapy**

- 4 • Metronidazole 400-500mg twice daily for 7 days (Grade 1B) - in those who failed to respond to a first  
5 course of treatment, 40% responded to a repeat course of standard treatment [70].

6  
7 For patients failing this second regimen:

8 **2. Higher dose course of nitroimidazole (Grade 2B)**

- 9 • Metronidazole 2g daily for 5-7 days [66] or  
10 • Metronidazole 800mg three times daily for 7 days [70] - in those who failed to respond to a second  
11 course of treatment, 70% responded to a higher dose course of metronidazole [70].

12  
13 Availability

14 For those failing this regimen, it is now difficult to make recommendations. Resistance testing is not available in  
15 the UK and the manufacture of tinidazole has been discontinued since March 2021. If tinidazole is able to be  
16 sourced, high dose tinidazole regimens are recommended. If tinidazole is not available expert opinion  
17 recommends using very high dose courses of metronidazole in combination with vaginal treatment. With the  
18 exception of metronidazole all the medicines suggested for use in treatment failure are unlicensed products that  
19 can be difficult to source and expensive. The pharmacy purchasing department may be able to source some of  
20 these products from specialist manufacturers or importers but consider lead times.

21  
22 **3. Very high dose course of nitroimidazole and very high dose course of nitroimidazole with intravaginal  
23 nitroimidazole or paromomycin cream (Grade 2D)**

- 24  
25 • Metronidazole 2g twice daily for 14 days with metronidazole vaginal gel 5g twice daily for 14 days.

26  
27 ***There are reports of peripheral neuropathy with metronidazole which suggest that a cumulative dose of  
28 >42g is a risk factor [71]. Caution should also be used with very high doses in women who weigh less  
29 than 53kg as the UK toxbase suggests anyone who has ingested more than 150mg/kg/24 hours should  
30 be referred for medical assessment.***

- 31  
32 • A case series using tinidazole 1g three times daily plus intravaginal tinidazole 500mg twice daily for 14  
33 days in women (56g total dose) with moderately or highly metronidazole resistant TV reported cure in  
34 9/11 (82%) [66].  
35 • A case series of women with TV unresponsive to higher dose course of metronidazole, used tinidazole  
36 500mg four times daily plus intravaginal tinidazole 500mg twice daily for 14 days (42g total dose) or  
37 tinidazole 1g three times daily plus intravaginal tinidazole 500mg three times daily for 14 days (63g total  
38 dose). TV cure was reported in 22/24 (92%) [72].  
39 • A case series of women who had failed to respond to at least two courses of standard therapy used  
40 tinidazole 2g twice daily for 14 days (56g total dose) and reported TV cure in 9/11 (90%) [73].  
41 • There have been four published cases of women who had failed multiple treatments for TV who were  
42 cured with a combination of very high dose tinidazole plus intravaginal paromomycin cream daily for 14  
43 days [72,74,75]. Two of the four had received the individual components separately but with treatment  
44 failure of each. However, the infections cleared when given in combination suggesting possible additive  
45 or synergistic effect between the two drugs.

46  
47 If very high dose tinidazole plus intravaginal cream has been unsuccessful or are unavailable it is difficult to  
48 recommend further treatments at present. These cases can be a therapeutic challenge as treatment options are  
49 limited with little evidence to support them. Options include:

- 50  
51 • The largest published case series of alternative treatments have been with intravaginal paromomycin  
52 alone with 56-58% cure rates reported [72,76].  
53 • Boric acid pessaries have been suggested as an alternative but a literature review found only four cases  
54 of successful treatment using 600mg alternate nights to 600mg two times daily for between 1-5 months  
55 [77].  
56 • There is one case report of clearance of TV with dequalinium chloride 10mg vaginal tablets for 18  
57 weeks. Dequalinium chloride is a licensed product for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis in Europe.

58  
59 Secnidazole is a new second-generation 5-nitroimidazole product with a broad spectrum of activity against  
60 anaerobic bacteria and a longer half-life than metronidazole, making it suitable for single-dose therapy, and  
61 therefore potentially offers an advantage over multiple-dose metronidazole regimens. This has shown promise for  
62 treatment of TV in phase 3 trials as a single 2g dose, in 64 adult females with trichomoniasis of whom 59

1 (92.2%) having a negative TV culture 6-12 days after treatment, and has US FDA approval for TV treatment at  
2 this dose [78,79]

#### 3 4 Follow up

5 Tests of cure are only recommended if the patient remains symptomatic following treatment, or if symptoms  
6 recur (Grade 2C). The optimum timing of NAAT for TV test of cure is 4-weeks after the start of treatment [80].

#### 7 8 Management of sexual partners:

9 Services should have appropriately trained staff in PN skills to improve outcomes. All patients identified with TV  
10 should have PN discussed at the time of diagnosis by a trained healthcare professional. The method of PN for  
11 each partner/contact identified should be documented, as should PN outcomes.

12  
13 Current partners and any partner(s) within the four weeks prior to presentation should be offered, and  
14 encouraged to take up, full STI screening, including HIV testing and treated for TV irrespective of the results of  
15 investigations [81-83] . (See [www.bashh.org/guidelines](http://www.bashh.org/guidelines) for partner notification statement)

16  
17 In a contact of TV found to have urethritis on screening, it is reasonable to treat initially for TV and repeat the  
18 urethral smear before treating additionally for non-gonococcal urethritis [84].

19  
20 There are no data available to guide treatment of the male partners of women with nitroimidazole treatment  
21 failure. Expert opinion suggests male partners should be evaluated and treated with metronidazole 400-500mg  
22 twice daily for 7 days (Grade 2C). There has been one report of a male partner requiring very high dose  
23 tinidazole therapy before re-infection was prevented [73].

#### 24 25 26 Organisational and financial considerations

27 The first line treatments are cheap and easy to administer. For allergy and resistant case management the  
28 relative costs, time to obtain drug and access to safe desensitisation facilities will incur additional costs and  
29 resources, or appropriate referral.

#### 30 31 Auditable Outcome Measures

- 32 • All patients diagnosed with TV infection should receive first line treatment with metronidazole 400mg  
33 twice daily for at least 7 days, or have a documented reason for exception (ie allergy). Performance  
34 standard: 97%
- 35 • Individuals should be offered information (written or digital) about their diagnosis and treatment.  
36 Performance standard: 97%
- 37 • Individuals diagnosed with TV infection should be tested for all sexually transmitted infections including  
38 HIV (unless previously diagnosed with HIV). Performance standard 97%

#### 39 40 Recommendations for further research

- 41  
42 • Utility of secnidazole in cases of TV where metronidazole has failed
- 43 • Most effective dose of secnidazole – single dose vs multidose

#### 44 45 46 Qualifying statement

47 The recommendations in this guideline may not be appropriate for use in all clinical situations. Decisions to  
48 follow these recommendations must be based on the professional judgement of the clinician and consideration  
49 of individual patient circumstances and available resources. All possible care has been undertaken to ensure  
50 the publication of the correct dosage of medication and route of administration. However, it remains the  
51 responsibility of the prescribing physician to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of the medication they  
52 prescribe.

#### 53 54 Statement of editorial independence

55 This guideline was commissioned, edited and endorsed by the BASHH CEG without external funding being  
56 sought or obtained.

#### 57 58 Declarations of interest

59 All members of the guideline writing committee completed the BASHH conflict of interest declaration detailed  
60 below at the time the guideline's final draft was submitted to the CEG. No authors have any conflicts of interest  
61 to declare and the content of the guideline is not attributed to any organisation they are associated with.

1 Membership of the Clinical Effectiveness Group

2 Current membership of the BASHH Clinical effectiveness group is available at [https://www.bashh.org/bashh-](https://www.bashh.org/bashh-groups/clinical-effectiveness-group/)  
3 [groups/clinical-effectiveness-group/](https://www.bashh.org/bashh-groups/clinical-effectiveness-group/)

4  
5 Acknowledgements

6 The writing group and CEG would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution from individuals responding to  
7 the draft consultation and the pilot sites.

8  
9 Review arrangements:

10 An author group will be invited by the BASHH CEG to review and revise the guideline in 2026 using the BASHH  
11 framework for guideline development. However, addenda may be issued sooner than 2025, particularly if  
12 relevant new data are available relating to testing or treatment options.

13  
14

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DRAFT

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## Appendix 1 Metronidazole de-sensitisation

Patients must be monitored carefully throughout the desensitisation regimen, and local policies and procedures for desensitisation should be followed, which may include the use of day care facilities as well as admission, ideally under an allergy specialist where available. It is important to prescribe chlorphenamine, hydrocortisone and adrenaline for use if needed. Some sources recommend commencing an antihistamine regimen one day prior to regimen and up to completion of desensitisation programme e.g. cetirizine or chlorphenamine, but this decision remains controversial. Based on desensitisation protocols for other antibacterial agents, [64] the desensitization regimen should be terminated if a severe reaction (anaphylaxis) occurs at any step. If the reaction is minor and subsides with antihistamine use then advance to the next step; if the reaction worsens, the desensitization regimen should be terminated. If the patient does not experience any adverse reactions during the desensitisation process, the patient should be monitored for four hours; if the patient does experience a reaction, the patient should be monitored for a minimum of 24 hours.

### Metronidazole desensitisation – oral desensitisation protocol [66 - adapted]

Step	Time (hr)	Dose (mg)	Metronidazole concentration*	Volume (mL)
1	0	0.0025	0.025mg/mL	0.1
2	1	0.025	0.025mg/mL	1
3	2	0.25	0.25mg/mL	1
4	3	2.5	2.5mg/mL	1
5	4	25	2.5mg/mL	10
6	5	200	200mg	1x200mg tablet
7	6	400	400mg	1x400mg tablet
8	7	800	800mg	2x400mg tablet
9	8	1000	1g	2x400mg and 1x200mg tablet

### Extemporaneous preparation of metronidazole liquid dilutions for use in the desensitisation regimen

In order to achieve the correct concentrations of metronidazole suspension for the desensitisation regimen above the method below may be used. This should be extemporaneously prepared in a pharmacy using local procedures. After dilution of metronidazole suspension with syrup BP the product should be discarded after 1 days [1].

#### Metronidazole 2.5mg/mL (concentration 1)

1. Take 1mL of the 200mg/5mL metronidazole liquid (40mg/mL).
2. Make this up to 16mL with syrup BP to give a 2.5mg/mL concentration.

#### Metronidazole 0.25mg/mL (concentration 2)

1. Take 1ml of concentration 1 (2.5mg/mL) liquid and make up to 10ml with syrup BP to give 0.25mg/mL.

#### Metronidazole 0.025mg/mL (concentration 3)

1. Take concentration 2 (0.25mg/mL) and make up to 10ml with syrup BP to make 0.025mg/mL.

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