

## **Patient education for Mucopurulent Cervicitis**

### **What is mucopurulent cervicitis?**

Mucopurulent cervicitis is characterized by a yellow or white discharge that comes from the cervix. The cervix is the mouth of the womb where the uterus opens into the top of the vagina. Mucopurulent means that the secretions are part mucus and part white blood cell inflammation, also known as pus

### **What causes mucopurulent cervicitis?**

This condition is different from the common vaginal discharge caused by bacterial vaginosis, yeast and trichomonas. Occasionally sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia or Gonorrhea may be the reason for a vaginal discharge. During an evaluation for symptoms of a vaginal discharge your healthcare provider will make sure you don't have these conditions. No one knows what causes mucopurulent cervicitis. If the symptoms and examination are consistent with a cervicitis and test results do not identify a reason, then the diagnosis of mucopurulent cervicitis is established. However, the actual cause is still not known. It is sometimes called non-chlamydial, non-gonococcal cervicitis.

### **What are the symptoms of mucopurulent cervicitis?**

Women notice yellow or white vaginal discharge. The discharge tends to be odorless and does not cause any burning or irritation. This condition may be hard to diagnose. Because of this it is difficult to say how common this is. However, studies done by experts suggest that it is not rare. It is generally found in the age group of women that are having periods .

### **How do you diagnose this?**

Your provider will perform a pelvic examination, which will include a speculum examination of the inside of the vagina. The specimen will be collected with a cotton swab. It will be examined under a microscope and can be tested for sexually transmitted diseases. If these tests do not identify a particular infection the likely diagnosis is mucopurulent cervicitis

### **How do you treat mucopurulent cervicitis?**

Because no one understands what causes this disease, it is not clear how to treat it. One of the more accepted theories is that this is still caused by some sort of infection, even though the agent has not been identified. Therefore a standard approach is to use

antibiotics. This does not mean the infection came from sexual activity. Another theory suggests that there is overactive gland tissue in the cervix, called an ectropion. Some treatment options include freezing or burning the cervix to get rid of some of the glandular tissue. Additional treatment may include guaifenesin, which is also found in cold medicines, to reduce the mucus secretions. This may require several attempts or different medicines to cure the discharge.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

Commonly asked questions include the possibility of getting this from or giving it to a partner. Again this is not known. Therefore some people recommend not having sexual activity while you are being treated. Another common question is whether this can interfere with a pregnancy or impact on future pregnancy. This diagnosis is probably rare in pregnancy, but could still be treated with antibiotics that are considered safe during pregnancy.

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