

Vaginosis Profile

sample type: **SWAB**

The causes of vaginitis are sometimes difficult to ascertain. The **Vaginosis Profile** sheds light on the most common causes of vaginosis, enabling the practitioner to select the most suitable interventions and bring relief to a frustrated patient.

Factors Influencing Infection:

Recurrent or chronic vaginitis is one of the most common reasons that women seek medical attention. Although vaginitis may be caused by a foreign organism, such as *N. gonorrhoea*, far more cases arise from alterations in the vaginal milieu that trigger inflammation. Factors influencing the vaginal environment include:

- Acid/base balance (pH)
- Glycogen and glucose
- Sex hormones
- Immune health
- Natural flushing action of vaginal secretions
- Level of protective Lactobacilli
- Diabetes mellitus
- Sexual contact
- Oral contraceptives

Identifying these factors is essential in preventing recurrence of infection. Just as important is the identification of the causative organisms in order to develop the most effective treatment. Genova Diagnostic's Vaginosis Profile is one of the most comprehensive evaluations available. It includes microscopic examination of vaginal fluid, gram stain, as well as cultures for bacteria and yeast.

Bacterial cultures demonstrate the presence of possible pathogens, as well as the concentration of Lactobacillus, the protective bacteria that is easily eradicated by oral antibiotics. Although *Staphylococcus aureus* and Group B beta Streptococcus are the only recognized aerobes of concern (the latter in the case of pregnancy), other aerobic organisms have been observed to contribute to vaginosis symptoms, particularly when Lactobacillus levels are low. For this reason, all organisms are cultured and reported. A sensitivity panel accompanies every culture, so that the clinician who desires to treat the organism can select the most appropriate agents.

A comprehensive microscopic exam can help determine the cause of an imbalance. Each sample is assessed for the following:

- **Presence of cell lysis** - from Lactobacillus overgrowth which causes excess acidity
- **Clue cells** - suggesting Gardnerella, the most common cause of vaginitis
- **White blood cells** - to determine the degree of inflammation and identify allergic vaginitis
- **Trichomonas** - to identify parasitic infection
- **Yeast morphology** - to identify both budding and hyphenated forms of yeast.

The **Vaginosis Profile** from Genova Diagnostics also features the Nugent Scoring System to help identify or rule out Gardnerella vaginitis. By identifying and grading the types of organisms present, the Nugent Scoring System can also predict relapse in susceptible individuals, and determine the need for repeat analysis.

- **Analytes:**
Microscopic exam for the presence of:
epithelial cells
cell cytolysis
bacterial adherence
RBCs
WBCs
Lactobacilli
curved gram negative organisms
yeast
bacterial and yeast cultures
sensitivity upon request

- **Specimen Requirements:**
1 culturettes, 2 slides

- **Before Taking this Test:**
- Avoid testing during a menstrual period
- Avoid douching before test
- Arrange test for Monday-Thursday
- See instructions inside test kit for details

- **Turn-Around Time:**
14 Days

- * **NOTE!**—This test requires a vaginal swab which should be taken by a nurse/health care practitioner. Samples can be collected at our London location.



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Comprehensive Vaginosis Profile

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Patient: **SAMPLE
PATIENT**

Order Number:

Completed: July 27, 2005

Age: 47

Received: July 27, 2005

Sex: F

Collected: July 27, 2005

MRN:

Microbial Culture

Bacteria

3+ Lactobacillus species

1+ Escherichia coli

2+ gamma-haemolytic Streptococcus

Yeast

2+ Yeast, not Candida albicans

Microscopic Examination

Wet Prep

		Reference
Cytolysis:	None	None
Clue Cells:	Absent	None
WBC's:	7-12	0-6
Trichomonas:	None	None
Yeast Cells:	Few	None
Pseudohyphae:	Present	None

Gram Stain

		Reference
Lactobacillus-like gram-positive rods:	Moderate	Moderate to Many
Mobiluncus-like curved, gram-negative rods:	Few	None
Gardnerella/Bacteroides-like gram variable coccobacilli, pleomorphic:	None	None

Bacterial Vaginosis Score

Bacterial Vaginosis Score*

2

Score Interpretation for vaginosis:

- 0-3 Normal (no vaginosis)
- 4-6 Intermediate, repeat test later
- 7-10 Bacterial vaginosis by microscopic analysis

*Nugent et al J Clin Micro 1991. 29:297-301

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This test reveals important clinical information about:

- **Bacterial and yeast imbalances** within the vaginal environment that may contribute to vaginal discharge, odor, itching and burning
- **The presence of pathogens** such as *Gardnerella* and *Mobiluncus*, common causes of bacterial vaginosis—a condition linked to increased risk of preterm birth and HIV transmission
- **The presence of white blood cells** associated with inflammation
- **Cell lysis** linked to excess vaginal acidity
- **In-vitro sensitivity** of vaginal organisms to antimicrobial and antifungal agents

For test kits, clinical support, or more information contact:

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More detailed publications with references are also available: www.GDXuk.net