



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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LABORATORY TEST FACT SHEET

TEST: TRICHOMONAS NAAT

ORDER CODE: 2850

TEST DESCRIPTION

Trichomoniasis is a common sexually transmitted disease caused by *Trichomonas vaginalis*, a parasitic protozoa. Although not a reportable disease, it is estimated that over 7 million new cases occur annually in the US. Infections in women cause vaginitis, urethritis, and cervicitis. Discharge and small hemorrhagic lesions may be present in the genitourinary tract. Complications can include premature labor, low-birth-weight offspring, premature rupture of membranes, and post-abortion or post-hysterectomy infection. An association with pelvic inflammatory disease, tubal infertility, and cervical cancer with previous episodes of trichomoniasis has been reported. Symptomatic women with trichomoniasis usually complain of vaginal discharge, vulvovaginal soreness, and/or irritation. Dysuria is also common. However, it has been estimated that 10 to 50% of *T. vaginalis* infections in women are asymptomatic, and in men the proportion may even be higher.

T. vaginalis may also be detected using “wet-mount” preparation by mixing vaginal secretions with saline on a slide and examining the slide under a microscope. However, the sensitivity of the wet-mount method is highly dependent on the experience of the microscopist. In addition, culture methods require specialized media and long incubation periods.

The Aptima® *Trichomonas vaginalis* Assay is a qualitative nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for the detection of ribosomal RNA (rRNA) from *Trichomonas vaginalis* to aid in the diagnosis of trichomoniasis using the Panther System. The test uses Target Capture, Transcription-Mediated Amplification (TMA), and Hybridization Protection Assay (HPA) technologies.

Sensitivity and Specificity

1. Sensitivity and specificity are shown in the table below by specimen type.

Specimen type	Sensitivity	Specificity
Trichomonas vaginalis		
Vaginal swab	100%	98.2%
Endocervical swab	100%	98.1%

SPECIMENS ACCEPTED FOR TESTING

- Aptima collection kits are required for each specimen type
- Urine
- Vaginal swab (clinician-collected)
- Endocervical swab (clinician-collected)

Storage and Transport temperature: 2-30°C (refrigerated or room temperature)

Holding time (after transfer Aptima transport device): 60 days for swab specimens and 30 days for urine specimens.

CPT codes: 87661