

# MLHL BULLETIN

## BV/Vaginitis Panel by DNA Probe

October 3, 2007

**Main Line Health Laboratories (MLHL) is pleased to offer DNA testing for the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis/vaginitis beginning October 15, 2007.**

The BD Affirm™ VPIII Microbial Identification Test is a DNA probe test for use in the detection and identification of *G. vaginalis*, *Candida* species & *Trichomonas vaginalis* nucleic acid in vaginal fluid specimens from patients with symptoms of vaginosis/vaginitis. The test uses individual probes for each organism and allows for detection of mixed infections.

Vaginal specimens are collected and submitted using the Affirm VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System. The Affirm VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System can be obtained from the Client Service Center at (610)229-4200.

Main Line Health Laboratories will be performing the BV/Vaginitis Panel test daily; the expected turnaround time will be 24-48 hours.

Vaginal discharge is among the leading symptoms prompting physician office visits by women in the United States. Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is the most common vaginal infection in women of childbearing age. BV can be associated with sexual intercourse but is not sexually transmitted. BV is associated with an imbalance in the bacteria that are normally found in a woman's vagina. *Gardnerella vaginalis* is used as a sentinel indicator for BV; that is, the presence of  $>2 \times 10^5$  *G. vaginalis* is an indicator of active infection caused by multiple organisms.

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Vaginal candidiasis is the second most common form of vaginal infection. Three quarters of adult women will experience at least one episode of vaginal candidiasis during their lifetime, with 40-50% experiencing a second episode. Although *Candida albicans* is the most common causes of vaginal candidiasis, *C. tropicalis*, *C. glabrata*, *C. kefyr*, *C. krusei*, & *C. parapsilosis* have all been associated with vulvovaginal candidiasis.

In the US, there are over 5 million new cases of trichomoniasis each year, making it the most common curable sexually transmitted disease in young, sexually active women.

Traditional tests (wet mounts, scored gram stains, pH, amine test, & cultures) for the diagnosis and identification of the organism responsible for vaginitis/vaginosis often lack sensitivity. Additionally, all of the traditional tests have specimen transportation limitations.

If you have any questions, please contact MLHL Microbiologist Olarae Giger, PhD at (610)645-3514 or Gary Daum, MD, Medical Director of Microbiology at (610)645-8013.