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**Dr.SAMPLE REPORT**  
**TEST HEALTH CENTRE**  
**123 TEST STREET**  
**BURWOOD WA 98133**

**LAB ID :** 3814173  
**UR NO. :**  
**Collection Date :** 09-May-2022  
**Received Date:** 09-May-2022



3814173

## Vaginal Microbiome Comments

The typical vaginal pH is 3.5-4.5. Prepubertal and postmenopausal pH levels are normally >5 pH. With the increase of the oestrogen levels around puberty, the genital mucosa thickens and becomes colonized with Lactobacillus species which produce lactic acid and hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) to lower the pH below 4.5.

### ELEVATED pH:

Vaginal pH can be elevated by the presence of pathogenic infection, blood, semen, vaginal medications, using certain soaps and douches. In the absence of the latter, an elevated pH may be the result of decreased serum oestradiol and is suggestive of menopause or hormone imbalance and may require further pathology investigation.

### MEGASPHAERA SPECIES ELEVATED:

Megasphaera are gram-negative anaerobic bacteria, part of Clostridia genus often found as part of the oral and vaginal microbiota. The presence of high number of Megasphaera species may be an indicator of vaginal flora imbalances or infections. BV is typically a polymicrobial infection characterized by disruption in Lactobacillus dominance (Total Lactobacillus <10<sup>6</sup> CFU/ml), increased pH (>4.5) and the presence of mainly anaerobic microorganisms including Megasphaera sp. (>10<sup>5</sup> CFU/ml).

### NEISSERIA GONORRHOEAE - DETECTED:

Detection and confirmation performed at a NATA accredited laboratory.

Infection is primarily sexually transmitted and may be either asymptomatic or cause symptoms such as cervicitis (inflammation of the cervix) in women. Even asymptomatic infections should be treated and must always include the patients partner/sexual contacts. If left untreated, complications of gonococcal disease can include pelvic inflammatory disease with risk of infertility. Neisseria gonorrhoeae infections are notifiable under legislation in Australia and a notification has been made with your state public health unit; notification data are recorded in the Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

### VAGINAL CANDIDIASIS (VC):

Candida sp. are both opportunistic fungal pathogens and commensal members of the vaginal microbiome. VC is defined by disruption in Lactobacillus dominance (Total Lactobacillus <10<sup>6</sup> CFU/ml) and high levels of Candida sp. (>10<sup>5</sup> CFU/ml).

VC is predominantly caused by Candida albicans, with other species (C. glabrata, C. krusei, C. tropicalis, C. parapsilosis) also causative, although with milder symptoms.

VC is not associated with elevated vaginal pH levels. It is rare for fungal infections to be present combined with bacterial vaginosis.

VC symptoms include itching, discharge (typically white), burning sensation, dysuria (painful urination), dyspareunia (pain during sexual intercourse) and reddening of vaginal tissue due to invasion of the epithelium by Candida species. Asymptomatic vaginal candidiasis is also relatively common and does not require treatment. Risk factors include antibiotic use, poorly controlled diabetes mellitus, low immunity and oestrogen therapies.

### TOTAL LACTOBACILLUS LEVELS LOW:

Total Lactobacillus quantification should be >1x10<sup>6</sup> CFU/ml in a healthy Vaginal Microbiome. Production of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> by Lactobacillus species is essential in inhibiting the overgrowth of pathogens. In cases where total Lactobacillus levels are low, presence of pathogenic bacteria should be reviewed and probiotic therapy should be considered.

Microorganisms not belonging to the Lactobacillus genus with the population equal to or greater than 1 × 10<sup>5</sup> CFU/ml is considered to be disturbing the vaginal ecosystem equilibrium.

### References:

Pacha-Herrera et. al., 2020, Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology, 10:303.

Oerlemans et. al., 2020, Europe PMC, 10(11).

Tomusiak et. al., 2013, Polish Society of Gynaecologists, 84:352-358.

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## Vaginal Microbiome Comments

### MYCOPLASMA AND UREAPLASMA:

Mycoplasmas and Ureaplasmas species colonise lower genital tract of many healthy sexually active individuals. Clinically act as opportunistic bacteria, associated with mucosal infections of the respiratory and urogenital tracts. Mycoplasmas and Ureaplasma species can cause sexually transmitted infections like bacterial vaginosis (BV), cervicitis, PID, infertility in non-pregnant females and chorioamnionitis, endometritis, postpartum fever, premature birth or spontaneous abortion in pregnancy and urethritis in males. Sexual contacts should be encouraged to be tested and treated simultaneously to prevent recurrence in the patient.

Both organisms lack cell wall hence  $\beta$  lactam antibiotics are not effective. Macrolides and Quinolones are effective but antimicrobial resistance is creeping.

General advice for along with above treatment as follows:

- Regular salt or warm water only washes (no douching)
- Good Personal Hygiene
- Avoid irritants (soaps/perfumes)
- Use barrier protection during sex

### GARDNERELLA VAGINALIS:

Gardnerella is a part of normal vaginal anaerobic flora but overgrowth can cause Bacterial vaginosis. This is a poly-microbial infection which suppresses dominance of normal vaginal lactobacillus spp. (Total lactobacillus  $<10^6$  CFU/ml), presence of clue cells, alkaline vaginal pH ( $>4.5$ ) and fishy vaginal discharge  
BV may be asymptomatic or cause symptoms such as itching and malodorous discharge (often thin and white/grey). It is associated with an increased risk of preterm delivery, pelvic inflammatory disease and an increased risk of acquisition of sexually transmitted infections.

Can be treated after ruling out allergy/pregnancy status:

Metronidazole 400 mg orally, 12-hourly for 7 days or Metronidazole 0.75% vaginal gel 1 applicatorful intravaginally at bedtime for 5 nights

OR

Clindamycin 2% vaginal cream 1 applicatorful intravaginally, at bedtime for 7 nights ( If pregnant or allergic to metronidazole)

General advice for along with above treatment as follows:

- Regular salt or warm water only washes (no douching)
- Good Personal Hygiene
- Avoid irritants (soaps/perfumes)
- Use barrier protection during sex