

Vaginal Yeast Infections The Importance of Proper Diagnosis

Whether it's the first time they've experienced yeast infection symptoms or they have been treated in the past for a yeast infection, here are a few things you can tell patients—in person or on the phone—to make sure they come in to get a proper diagnosis (6-9):

- With proper treatment, most yeast infections can be cured quickly. The best way to get quick relief is to be properly evaluated by a healthcare professional.
- Bacterial vaginosis—not yeast infection—is the most common form of vaginitis.
- Infections that can or may have symptoms, like vaginal itching, similar to those of a yeast infection include bacterial vaginosis and trichomoniasis—both of which may lead to complications if left untreated. There are different types of vaginal infections that require different kinds of treatment.
- A proper diagnosis by a healthcare provider is essential for quick relief and to avoid any more serious consequences.
- Complications from delayed treatment of certain vaginal infections include:
 - Pelvic inflammatory disease
 - Endometritis
 - Urinary tract infections
 - Infertility
 - Delivery complications in pregnant women
 - Increased risk of HIV infection and other STDs
- Improper diagnosis may mask the presence of other conditions, such as HIV infection and diabetes.

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