



## Bacterial Vaginosis (B.V., 'Gardnerella')

This is an overgrowth of normal vaginal bacteria, linked with an imbalance in vaginal acidity. It may have no symptoms or cause a smelly discharge, which isn't usually itchy. It may not need treatment, but will in pregnancy where there is a link with the possibility of premature labour or miscarriage. It seems to be linked with using perfumed soaps, bubble bath and tampons and is commonly found in lesbians. A link with sex between women is still being researched. Treatment is with antibiotics as cream or tablets.