Bacterial Vaginosis (BV)

1. Cause
   a. Overgrowth of normal bacteria (% indicates prevalence of bacteria as part of flora)
      i. Staphylococcus epidermidis (100%) 2nd most dominant type
      ii. Staphylococcus aureus (25%)
      iii. Streptococcus mitis (25%)
      iv. Enterococcus faecalis (25%)
      v. Neisseria sp. (25%)
      vi. Neisseria meningitides (25%)
      vii. Enterobacteria (Including Escherichia coli) (25%)
      viii. Proteus sp. (25%)
      ix. Bacteroides sp. (5%)
      x. Lactobacillus sp. (100%) typically dominate the vaginal flora and lower pH to 4-5 which inhibits the growth of other bacteria
      xi. Corynebacteria sp. (25%)
      xii. Mycoplasmas (25%)
      xiii. Acinetobacter sp.
      xiv. Bifidobacterium sp.
      xv. Chlamydia sp.
      xvi. Clostridium sp.
      xvii. Streptococcus viridans
      xviii. Mobiluncus curtisi (numbers may increase in BV)
      xix. Mobiluncus mulieris (numbers may increase in BV)
      xx. Gardnerella vaginalis (numbers greatly increase in BV)

2. Treatment
   a. Metronidazole (PO or vaginal gel or foam) – drug of choice
   b. Clindamycin

3. Symptoms
   a. Discharge and Odor
      i. Milky or grey, may be thin
      ii. Fishy
   b. Pain/itch
      i. Of the genitalia, especially around vaginal opening
      ii. May be burning sensation with urination
   c. May not have symptoms!

4. Epidemiology
   a. Unclear how acquired
      i. Men don’t get, but having multiple partners predisposes a woman to it
      ii. Women without sexual history get it
      iii. Not transmitted by fomites
   b. Nearly 30% of women get it
   c. Complications
      i. Common in pregnant women
         1. Leads to low birth weight babies
         2. Potential premature birth
      ii. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (infection of fallopian tubes and/or the uterus)
         1. Increased risk of ectopic pregnancy
      iii. Increased susceptibility to other STDs (HIV, herpes simplex, chlamydia, gonorrhea)
         1. Increases the risk of transmitting HIV to partner, too
      iv. Increased risk of infection following hysterectomy or abortion