

Dear Pharmacist,

You have received two scripts for partner treatment to improve cure of bacterial vaginosis (BV). A recent randomised trial¹ has shown that the addition of partner treatment, with a combination of oral and topical antibiotics, greatly improves cure for the individual with BV.

Treatment for people with a penis is a combined regimen of 400mg oral metronidazole twice daily for 7 days AND 2% topical clindamycin cream (Dalacin – V) applied to the skin of the penis twice daily for 7 days. The metronidazole targets BV-bacteria present inside the urethra, and the topical cream targets the BV-bacteria present on the skin of the penis. Metronidazole can cause a mild headache, nausea or metallic taste in some people. Penile application of clindamycin cream is well-tolerated¹; side effects are uncommon and can include mild penile skin redness and/or irritation.

Important: Dalacin – V cream (topical 2% clindamycin phosphate cream) is commercially packaged with instructions for vaginal use. Please discard the vaginal applicators when dispensing this medication for penile application and label with the instructions below.

¹ Vodstrcil LA, Plummer EL, Fairley CK, Hocking JS, Law MG, Petoumenos K, Bateson D, Murray GL, Donovan B, Chow EPF, Chen MY, Kaldor J, Bradshaw CS. Male-partner treatment to prevent recurrence of bacterial vaginosis. *NEJM*. 2025;392:10. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2405404

Instructions for use:

Oral metronidazole: Take one tablet in the morning and one at night for 7 days. Tablets should be taken with food.

Topical clindamycin cream: Apply the cream morning and night for 7 days. If you are planning on having a shower, please apply the cream after your shower as the water will wash off the cream.

Follow steps 1-5.

- 1) Squeeze a line of cream from the tip of your finger to the first crease, as shown
- 2) If you have a foreskin, pull it back before applying the cream
- 3) Rub the cream over the skin of the head of the penis, covering the whole head from the tip of the penis to the groove just below the head
- 4) Squeeze a second line of cream from the tip of your index finger to the first crease
- 5) Rub this second line of cream from the groove under the head of the penis to the base, making sure to cover the entire shaft. Gently rub the cream into the skin.



Important: Avoid all sexual contact during the treatment period

Kind regards,

Prescribing Doctor



More Information

Simple instructions for 2% clindamycin cream application for a pharmacy label:

Squeeze a line of cream from the tip of your index finger to the first crease. Retract foreskin, if uncircumcised, and rub the cream over the penile head and into the groove below the head. Squeeze a 2nd line of cream onto your finger. Rub it over the full length of the penile shaft, front and back and down to the base of the penis. Repeat this twice daily for 7 days while taking the oral metronidazole tablets.