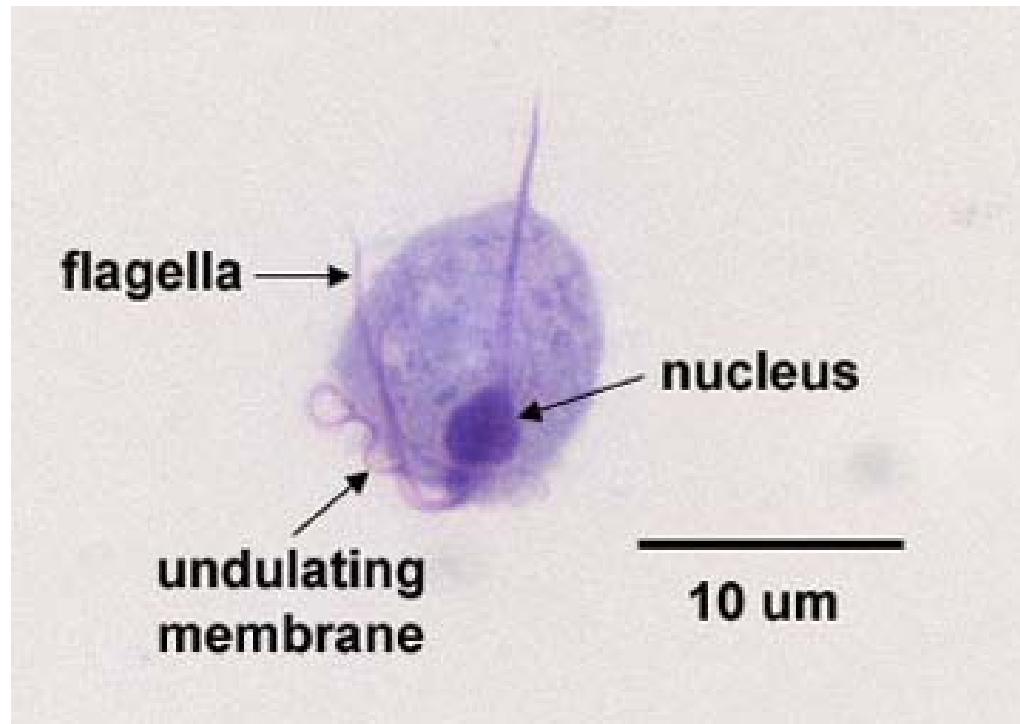


Trichomonas vaginalis



Morphology

- Flagellated protozoa only in trophozoite stage, measures 7-23 microns, with one nucleus

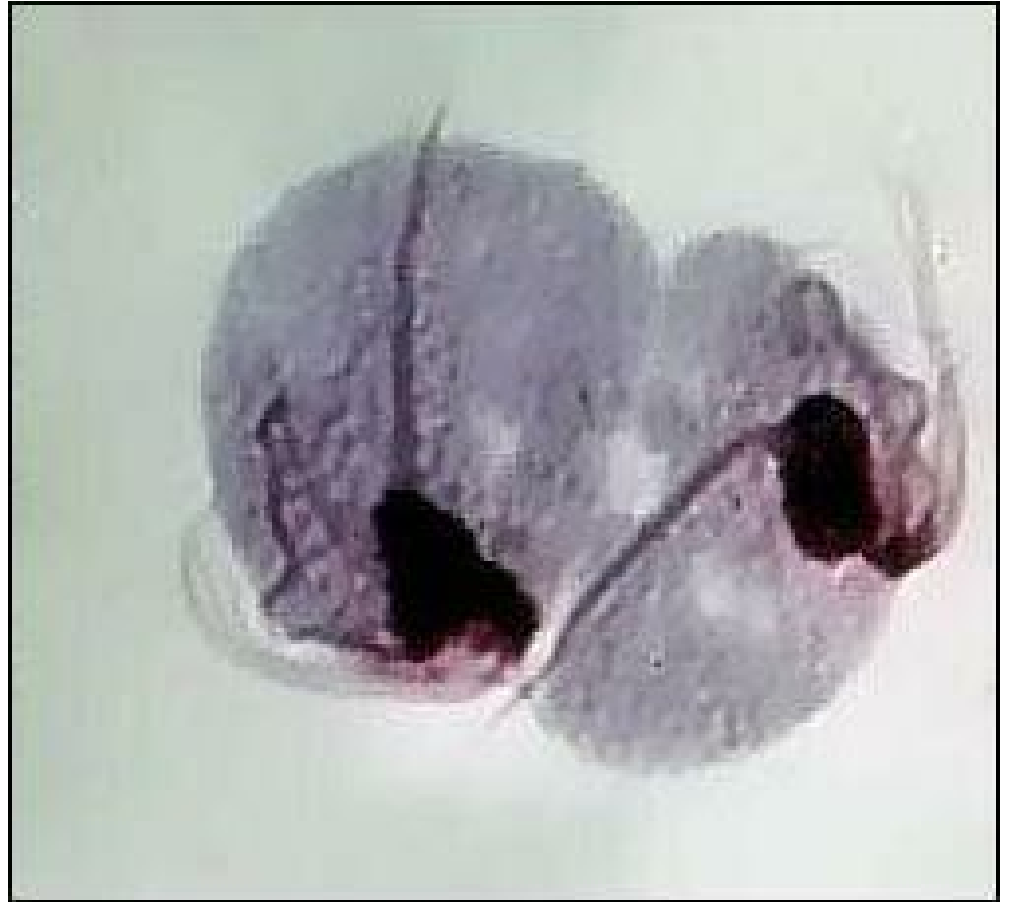


Life Cycle

- Lives in human vagina and prostate gland
- Females serve as reservoir and males serve as vectors
- May be transmitted female to female through contaminated clothing, towels, washcloths, and unsanitized toilets

Epidemiology

- Worldwide



Diagnosis

- Finding of parasite in urine, vaginal secretions, prostatic secretions



Symptomatology

- Males:
 - Usually asymptomatic, but in 10-15% may be cause of nonspecific urethritis
- Females:
 - Acute vaginitis with flareups with menses, eventually leading to chronic vaginitis which can become latent and asymptomatic
 - Acute characterized by greenish-yellow secretions and strawberry-like cervix

Treatment

- Metronidazole
- Diiodohydroxyquinoline suppositories
- Sexual partner(s) should be treated simultaneously



Prevention

- Avoidance of intercourse with infected individuals
- Treatment of asymptomatic individuals, especially males

