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JULY 12, 2011

STD trich twice as common in older women

John Hopkins researchers are finding an unusually high case of the sexually transmitted parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis* in older women.

The findings are so large that one of the researchers is calling for all sexually active women older than age 40 to get tested for the parasite. The research found that the STD is more than twice as common in this age group than previously thought.

Screening is especially important because in many cases there are no symptoms.

"We usually think of STDs as more prevalent in young people, but our study results clearly show that with trichomonas, while too many young people have it, even more older women are infected," senior study investigator Charlotte Gaydos, said in a statement.

Results of the study will be presented July 12 at the annual meeting of the **International Society for STD Research**, in Quebec City, Canada, by Gaydos and her co-investigators.

The study found that among 7,593 U.S. women between the ages of 18 and 89, women 50 and older had the highest trichomonas infection rate, at 13 percent. Women in their 40s were next, at 11 percent. The study collected test samples from women in 28 states and is believed to be the largest and most in-depth analysis of the STD ever performed in the United States.

Overall, the survey results showed that 8.7 percent of all women tested positive for the STD.

Posted by **Andrea Walker** at 7:10 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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About Picture of Health



Meredith Cohn has been a reporter since 1991, covering everything from politics and airlines to the environment and medicine. A runner since junior high and a particular eater for almost as long, she tries to keep up on health and fitness trends. Her aim is to bring you the latest news and information from the local and national medical and wellness communities.



Andrea K. Walker knows it's weird to some people, but she has a fascination with fitness, diseases, medicine and other health-related topics. She subscribes to a variety of health and fitness magazines and becomes easily engrossed in the latest research in health and science. An exercise fanatic, she's probably tried just about every fitness activity there is. Her favorites are running, yoga and kickboxing. So it is probably fitting that she has been assigned to cover the business of healthcare and to become a regular contributor to this blog. Andrea has been at The Sun for nearly 10 years, covering manufacturing, retail, airlines and small and minority business. She looks forward to telling readers about the latest health news.

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