

Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology
Discussion questions for Lecture 9, 2007
HIV and STDs during pregnancy

Klebanoff MA, et al. Failure of metronidazole to prevent preterm delivery among pregnant women with asymptomatic Trichomonas vaginalis infection. N Engl J Med. 2001 Aug 16;345(7):487-93.

1. What were the criteria for trial enrollment?
2. The investigators considered 40,857 women for screening screened 31,157, found 2377 with trichomonas and enrolled 615. Discuss issues of selection and external validity in this trial
3. Do you think that the excess of preterm births is consistent across subgroups (table 3). How does this affect your interpretation of the results?

Kigozi GG, et al. Treatment of Trichomonas in pregnancy and adverse outcomes of pregnancy: a subanalysis of a randomized trial in Rakai, Uganda. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2003 Nov;189(5):1398-400.

4. This was a secondary analysis of women with trichomonas who did or did not receive metronidazole in a completed trial. Discuss the limitations of such secondary analyses of effects of treatments. How does this differ from primary trial analyses?
5. Discuss whether selection of trial subjects might affect interpretation of these.
6. Given the findings of these trials, what should be the policy on use of metronidazole for vaginal infections in pregnancy?