**Table 179.1Laboratory Evaluation of Vaginal Discharge**

[View in own window](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK288/table/A5212/?report=objectonly)

|  | **Normal** | **Trichomonas** | **Bacterial vaginosis** | **Candida** |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PH | <4.5 | >4.5 | >4.5 | <4.5 |  |
| Abnormal odor (positive whiff test) | No | Yes | Yes | No |  |
| Wet prep |
| Epithelial cells | Normal | Normal | Clue cells | Normal |  |
| Leukocytes | Occasional | May be increased | Occasional | Occasional to slightly increased |  |
| Organisms | Large rods not adherent to cells | Mobile flagellated organisms | Coccobacilli adherent to cells | Budding yeast or hyphae |  |
| Potassium hydroxide | Negative | Negative | Negative | Budding yeast or hyphae |  |
| Gram stain | Gram-positive rods | Trichomonas (flagellated organisms) | Gram-negative coccobacilli | Budding yeast or hyphae |  |

From: Chapter 179, Tests on Vaginal Discharge



Clinical Methods: The History, Physical, and Laboratory Examinations. 3rd edition.

Walker HK, Hall WD, Hurst JW, editors.

Boston: [Butterworths](http://www.elsevierdirect.com/imprint.jsp?iid=30); 1990.

[Copyright](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/about/copyright/) © 1990, Butterworth Publishers, a division of Reed Publishing.

NCBI Bookshelf. A service of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.External link. Please review our [privacy policy](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/privacy.html).