

Dear Doctor

Dear Speak Doctor

I am a 37- year old woman. I have three children. And I use the loop. My problem is that I have a discharge under, and a bad smell. I went to my clinic, and they said I must go to the doctor.

The doctor gave me an injection. The discharge and bad smell went away for two or three weeks, and then it came back again. Can you please help me.

Yours
Unhappy

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your letter asking about this important problem. Many women suffer from discharge and go to their clinic. But as you said in your letter, the problem is that the health workers do not explain properly what is wrong with the patient. And most patients are too shy to ask the doctor to explain more fully.

Let us think about your problem. You have a loop and a bad smelling discharge. There are two main reasons why you could have this

discharge, even if you do not have an infection. The loop rubs against the walls of your womb (uterus) all the time. This causes your womb to make a discharge. This discharge only goes away if you take the loop out.

The second thing that can cause a discharge with the loop is infection. It is easier for germs to infect the womb when you have a loop inside you. If the infection is inside your womb, you get a bad discharge and pain low down in your stomach. Sometimes the infection is only in your vagina and not in your womb. Then you get a bad smelling discharge without feeling pain. But it is sometimes painful inside your vagina when you have sex. This bad smelling discharge is usually treated with pills. It can sometimes be treated with creams or pessaries.

Pessaries are large pills that you put into your vagina. If you go to a doctor, she may take a swab from your vagina. She uses an instrument called a speculum. She puts a speculum into your vagina, and she touches any place on your cervix or vagina you can see a lot of discharge. She will send this swab to a laboratory for a test. After a week, they can tell what germs are growing in your discharge. Then the doctor can tell you what the right medicine is to cure your discharge.

We hope that this information will help you with your problem.

Best wishes
The SPEAK Doctor

Do you have a health problem?

Write to the SPEAK Doctor. She will answer your letter. Remember to send an address with your letter so that she can reply to you.