

Clinical Expert Summary
Dequalinium chloride (Fluomizin®) 10 mg vaginal tablets

Dequalinium chloride (Fluomizin®) for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis.

1. Existing guidelines

Clinical experts referred to the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV's UK national guidance for the management of bacterial vaginosis.

2. Disease prevalence/incidence

Experts noted bacterial vaginosis was a very common condition and a common cause of abnormal vaginal discharge in women. Estimations given included a prevalence of 5 to 50%, and a Public Health Wales surveillance report was cited of 2,023 diagnoses in women attending sexual health clinics in Wales in 2014, although it was highlighted that these statistics did not cover Primary Care or obstetrics and gynaecology nor did they give a rate per population. One expert reported seeing an average of 3 patients per week at clinic (out of 150 patients seen).

3. Current treatment options

Experts reported oral metronidazole 400 mg twice daily for 5–7 days (or 2 gram single dose) as the predominant treatment. Intravaginal clindamycin cream (2%) and metronidazole gel (0.75%) were listed as alternative treatment options. One expert mentioned over-the-counter lactic acid preparations: Balance Activ, Canesbalance and Relactagel vaginal gels and also the use of natural yoghurt. Another expert stated that intravaginal metronidazole gel (0.75%) was the preferred treatment for recurrent bacterial vaginosis.

4. Unmet needs

One expert referred to recurrent bacterial vaginosis as an unmet need, because bacterial vaginosis can be difficult to eradicate and often causes psychological distress.

5. Knowledge of product in given indication

Experts noted that dequalinium chloride would be another potential treatment if cost-effective compared to other local treatment options and could be prescribed in symptomatic women aged 18–55 years at first presentation, where appropriate. One expert noted that dequalinium chloride may not be active against *Trichomonas*; current use of metronidazole covers both bacterial vaginosis and trichomoniasis hence failure of treatment may indicate *Trichomonas* present. Experts suggested that the side effect of irritation may be an issue.

It should be noted that no clinical experts involved in compiling this response declared personal specific interests in relation to dequalinium chloride for the indication under consideration.