Vaginal microbes in sexual health and disease

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STATEMENTS - STELLINGEN
Pertaining to this thesis – behorende bij dit proefschrift

VAGINAL MICROBES IN SEXUAL HEALTH AND DISEASE

1. Women who have *Lactobacillus crispatus*-dominated vaginal microbiota are less likely to test positive for *Chlamydia trachomatis* after being notified for infection by a sex partner, than women with *Lactobacillus iners*-dominated vaginal microbiota or women with diverse vaginal microbiota. (*this thesis*)

2. Ethnicity associates with vaginal microbiota composition, independent of modifiable behaviors. (*this thesis*)

3. Douching approximately three times a week for a month increases the odds for testing positive for *Candida albicans*. (*this thesis*)

4. Menses often temporarily shapes the vaginal microbiota to a less desirable state and douching during menses may exacerbate this effect. (*this thesis*)

5. Strain differences do not explain why in some women *Lactobacillus crispatus* is the dominating vaginal bacterial species while in other women it is a minority species. (*this thesis*)

6. Molecular diagnostic tools for the detection of bacterial vaginosis show better accuracy in women reporting urogenital symptoms than in asymptomatic women. (*this thesis*)

7. *Trichomonas vaginalis* infections are rare in the Netherlands and disproportionally affect women and ethnic minorities. (*this thesis*)

8. *Trichomonas vaginalis* has a two-genotype population structure of which genotype I is more likely to carry a virus and presence of the virus associates with reporting symptoms. (*this thesis*)

9. *Trichomonas vaginalis* positive patient material can be used directly in molecular epidemiological studies, without the need to culture first. (*this thesis*)

10. Kennis opdoen is zoals het opblazen van een ballon; hoe meer je erin stopt, hoe groter het raakvlak met het onbekende. (*Papa*)

11. Om ons lewens in perspektief te hou, het almal ’n hond nodig dat vir ons aanbid en ’n kat wat vir ons ignoreer. (*Sagmoedige Neelsie*)

Charlotte van der Veer
Amsterdam, 11th of January 2019