



Figure S1: Funnel plot to assess publication bias for studies reporting on *T.vaginalis* and preterm birth (n=8)

**Table S1: Quality assessment of eligible papers**

Author	Exclusion Criteria	Confounders adjusted	TV treated	Co-infection		Test type/site	Trimester of swab collection	Repeat swabs	Gestation Assessment	Overall risk of bias <sup>‡</sup>
				Assessed	Considered in analyses (Y/N)					
Hardy 1984 <sup>6</sup>	None stated	Pre-pregnancy weight. Weight gain and smoking in pregnancy.	Unclear	CT, NG, BV	No	Micro/Cult ECS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	NR	NR	Unclear
Minkoff 1984 <sup>7</sup>	Miscarriage, multiple pregnancy, elective induction or c/s for PROM.	Age, parity, previous PTB or abortion. Co-infections during pregnancy.	No	CT, BV, GBS	Yes	Micro/Cult NR	1 <sup>st</sup>	NR	NR	Unclear
VIPS: Cotch 1997 <sup>5</sup> Germain 1994 <sup>41</sup>	Chronic medical conditions, multiple gestation, cervical cerclage, erythroblastosis, antibiotics 2wks before enrolment, tocolytic/steroids use in pregnancy.	Enrolling institution, race, age, marital status, education, income, gravidity, pre-pregnancy weight and previous adverse pregnancy outcome. Smoking, other co-flora/STI and metronidazole use during pregnancy.	Yes	BV, GBS, other STI	Yes	Culture HVS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	NR	LMP, U/s if avail.	Unclear
Mathai 1998 <sup>20</sup>	None stated	None stated	No	BV	No	Micro/Cult HVS	NR	NR	NR	High
Buchmayer 2003 <sup>18</sup>	Multiple pregnancy, no recorded pap smear during pregnancy.	Age, parity, county & decade of test.	Unknown	Inflammation, Fungus Coccobacillus	No	Microscopy ECS	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	No	LMP, U/s if avail.	Low
Kiss 2004 <sup>22</sup>	Contractions, vaginal bleeding or symptoms of vaginal infection, twins, <15 > 19 wks.	None stated	No	BV Candida	Yes	Microscopy LVS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Positive only	LMP, U/s <19/40	Unclear

Azargoon 2006 <sup>19</sup>	Systemic diseases, placenta praevia/abruption, uterine anomalies, incompetent cervix, twins. History of preterm labour pain, tocolytic/corticosteroids during pregnancy or antibiotics 2wks prior to birth.	Age	Unclear	BV	Yes	Microscopy HVS	1 <sup>st</sup>	Yes	LMP, U/s >20/40	Low
French 2006 <sup>42,†</sup>	Twins, missing ethnicity, Hispanic and Native Americans	History of PTB, miscarriage, STI, PID. Smoking, drug use, STI, UTI during pregnancy.	No	BV, CT, NG, GBS	Yes	Micros/Cult MVS	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	No	LMP if avail. otherwise U/s	Unclear
Stringer 2010 <sup>43</sup>	Twins	Metronidazole use	Yes	HIV, CT, NG, BV	Unclear	Microscopy NR	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yes	LMP/Clinical Examination	Unclear
Johnson 2011 <sup>17</sup>	Multiple pregnancy, >1 pregnancy during study period, incomplete data.	Education, age, race, marital status, parity, febrile at birth. History of PTB, termination, hypertension, diabetes, anaemia. Alcohol/illicit drug use, smoking, weight gain, STI, herpes during pregnancy. Timing/ number of antenatal visits. Congenital anomalies, fetal alcohol syndrome, meconium aspiration. Trimester at time of infection.	Yes	BV, CT, NG, Syphilis	Yes	NR NR	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	NR	NR	Low
Rasti 2011 <sup>21</sup>	None stated	None stated	Unclear	No	No	Micro/Cult NR	NR	NR	NR	Unclear

<sup>‡</sup> Assessment following NICE guidelines<sup>13</sup> includes evaluation of four potential sources of bias: selection bias, performance bias, attrition bias and detection bias.

CT= Chlamydia trachomatis. NG=Neisseria gonorrhoea. BV=Bacterial vaginosis. ECS=Endocervical swab. NR= Not reported. c/s= caesarean section. PTB=Preterm Birth.

GBS=Group B Streptococcus. HVS=High Vaginal Swab. LMP=Last Menstrual Period. LVS= Lower Vaginal Swab. U/s=ultrasound. MVS= Mid Vaginal Swab PID=pelvic

inflammatory disease. UTI=urinary tract infection. <sup>†</sup> author provided missing information