

Group B Streptococcus (GBS) Screening & Treatment

WHAT is Group B streptococcus (GBS)?

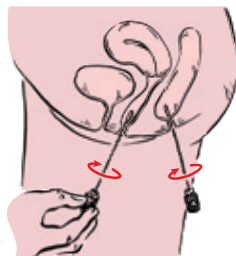
GBS is a normal bacteria that can be found around the birth canal.

WHY do we test?

GBS can cause serious infections in newborn babies that can affect their entire body. Approximately 25% of pregnant people carry the bacteria on their body at any given time. This does not mean that you have an infection or are sick, but may pass the GBS bacteria on to your baby during delivery if untreated. By testing and then treating with intravenous (IV) antibiotics while you are in labor, newborn GBS infection can usually be prevented.

HOW do we test?

At a prenatal care visit, around 36 weeks of pregnancy, a swab will be collected to test for GBS bacteria. The swab will be sent for testing and the results will be back in a few days.



WHAT happens after a positive GBS test result?

Treatment in labor.

If you are in labor, you will begin to receive IV antibiotics every few hours to prevent passing GBS to your newborn during delivery. If you are

having a scheduled cesarean delivery, you do not need to receive treatment. Screening is still usually done in case you go in to labor before your scheduled delivery date.

Receiving antibiotics during labor significantly decreases the chance that your baby will develop a serious GBS infection in the first week after birth.

What is the correct treatment?

The treatment for GBS includes giving antibiotics at least 4 hours prior to delivery and getting a dose of antibiotics within 4 hours of delivery. Since timing of delivery is unpredictable, antibiotics will be given every 4 hours until your baby is born. If this is completed, this is defined as “adequate treatment.”

How is newborn care different without the correct treatment for GBS?

If you did not receive antibiotics within 4 hours of delivery, or did not get greater than 4 hours of antibiotics, your newborn will need to be watched in the hospital for signs of infection. Your baby will need to stay for at least 36 hours (1 and half days) before they can be discharged.

CONTACT US

Please speak with your provider if you have any additional questions about GBS testing and treatment.