

Group B Streptococcus Positive

About 1 in 4 pregnant women carry group B streptococcus (GBS) in their body. It is a type of bacteria that is usually harmless. In pregnant women and babies, it can sometimes cause serious infections. This is why we collect a GBS swab on all pregnant women between 35 and 37 weeks.

If you tested positive for GBS, your healthcare team will plan on giving you antibiotics to treat it before your baby is born. Ideally you will receive at least one dose of antibiotics at least 4 hours before your baby is born. If this doesn't happen, we may need to watch your baby closely. This is because about 1-2% of babies will become sick with GBS "sepsis".

If you didn't get antibiotics at least 4 hours before your baby was born, you can expect these things:

- Often stay in the hospital for at least 24 hours
- Making sure your baby is feeding well
- Lots of heart rate, temperature, and breathing checks for your baby

Questions from Parents:

Q: What would happen if my baby has signs of sepsis?

A: Your nurse will let your healthcare provider know. Your team may have a special baby doctor come to see your baby.

Q: When babies get sick, when does it normally happen?

A: Babies often show signs of sepsis within 24 hours after they are born. This is why we keep you in the hospital to watch your baby closely. But some babies only show signs of sepsis days to weeks after delivery.

Q: What are the signs of sepsis? What should I do if I see these signs?

A: Signs of sepsis in a baby are fever, low temperature, trouble breathing or breathing faster than normal, feeding less than usual, vomiting, jaundice, sleeping more than usual, and/or slightly blue fingertips and lips. If your baby has any of these signs, call your doctor right away or go to the nearest emergency room for kids.