

Group B Strep (GBS)

GBS Testing and Information

Group B Strep or GBS is a bacteria (streptococci) that about 25% of women carry in their vagina or rectum during pregnancy. If babies contract this infection during the birth process, they may have become sick; pneumonia, meningitis or sepsis.

In 2001, 1,700 babies in the US less than a week old were diagnosed with early-onset Group B Strep disease according the CDC (Center for Disease Control).

The CDC recommends that all pregnant women be screened by vaginal culture for GBS at 35-37 weeks of gestation and be given IV antibiotics during labor for women with a positive culture for GBS.

The CDC states that this treatment decreases the risk of newborn infection from 1 in 2,000 to 1 in 4,000.

Risk of antibiotic treatment include: allergic reactions and secondary infections (bacterial, viral or fungal).

Preterm babies are at greater risk for contraction GBS. Infection risk also increases if the membranes have been ruptured more than 18 hours or if the mother has a fever during labor. Intervention such as frequent vaginal exams and internal fetal monitoring also increases the risk of infection.

Numerous alternative treatments exist which can treat Group B Strep during pregnancy and prevent transmission to the baby. However, these alternative treatments have not been approved by the CDC.

South Carolina regulations forbid Licensed Midwives (LM) from administering IV antibiotics; therefore such treatment would require transfer of care and admission into a hospital.

I have read and understand the above information concerning Group B Strep and I refuse to consent to be tested.

Client Signature/Date

Pamala Wilson, LM, CPM/Date

Print Name