

SCREENING FOR GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS (GBS)

Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is one of the many bacteria that live in the body. It usually does not cause serious illness and it is not sexually transmitted. In women, GBS is most often found in the vagina and rectum. This means that GBS can pass from a pregnant woman to her fetus during labor. This is rare and happens to 1 to 2 babies out of 100 when the mother does not receive treatment with antibiotics during labor. The chance of a newborn getting sick is much lower when the mother receives treatment.

Even though it is rare for a baby to get GBS, it can be very serious when it happens. GBS in a newborn can lead to meningitis, pneumonia, sepsis.

To aid in decreasing the transmission to infants at birth, we have chosen to follow the following guidelines:

1. All pregnant women will have a culture done between 35-37 weeks to determine if GBS is present. Those testing positive will receive treatment with intravenous antibiotics during labor.
 - a. If you are allergic to penicillin, please tell your provider before you are tested for GBS
2. Women presenting in preterm labor (before 36 weeks) or women on whom the culture results are unavailable, will receive treatment for GBS during labor.
3. Women who evidence GBS on routine urine culture screenings will receive treatment in labor.

If you have questions regarding this test, please discuss with your provider at your next routine visit.