

POSITIVE Group B Streptococcus and Pregnancy

What is it?

It is a type of bacteria that is found in the intestines, bladder and/or vagina of 15 - 40% of pregnant women. This bacteria does not usually cause health problems for adults. A woman with Group B Streptococcus (GBS) can pass it on to her baby during labor or birth. Most babies who are exposed to GBS do not have any problems. A few, though, can become very sick.

Effects on the baby

If the baby is exposed to the GBS during labor or delivery, there is a small chance (1 - 2%) the baby will develop an infection. Those babies that become infected can have lung, blood, brain or spinal cord infections. These infections can be treated with antibiotics.

Treatment of the Positive Culture

If the culture is positive for the Group B Streptococcus, we will recommend that you receive intravenous (IV) antibiotics during your labor to protect the baby from infection. If you do not receive 4 hours antibiotics before the birth, the pediatricians will do additional blood tests on the baby to see if there is risk of infection and you and your baby may need a longer stay...

Risk Factors

Those babies with an increased risk to have an infection with Group B Streptococcus are:

- Babies born before 37 weeks of pregnancy (premature)
- A mother that has had other babies with the Group B Streptococcus infection
- A mother with prolonged ruptured membranes (more than 18 hours)

In these cases, the mothers will receive antibiotics during labor to help protect the baby. Treatment during labor may help prevent infection in the baby.