



Group B Streptococcus and Pregnancy

Group Beta Strep (GBS) is a type of bacteria that can be found in up to 20% of women. While this bacteria does not affect the mother, a woman with GBS can pass it on to her baby during delivery. Some babies who get GBS can become sick or even die. However, there are ways to prevent GBS infections in newborns.

Between 33-36 weeks of pregnancy your provider will obtain a culture swab from the vagina and rectum. The results of this culture will be available at your next visit. If the results are positive, you will receive antibiotics while you are in labor. If the results are negative, no further testing is needed.

There are certain risk factors that make it more likely for a woman to have a pregnancy complicated by GBS:

- Preterm labor
- Preterm premature rupture of membranes (water breaking before 37 weeks).
- Prolonged rupture of membranes (more than 18 hours)
- Prior baby with GBS infection
- Fever during labor