

Group B Streptococcus (GBS) in pregnancy (Easy Read)



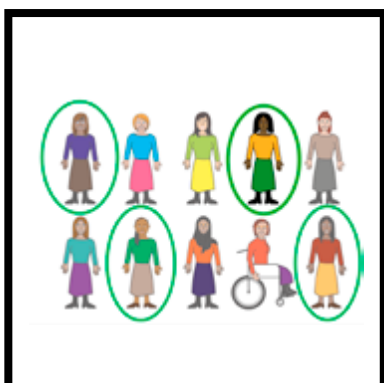
- GBS is a common bug (Bacterium)
- Carrying GBS is not harmful to you but it can be harmful to your baby at birth.



GBS can make your baby very ill with some serious illnesses such as;

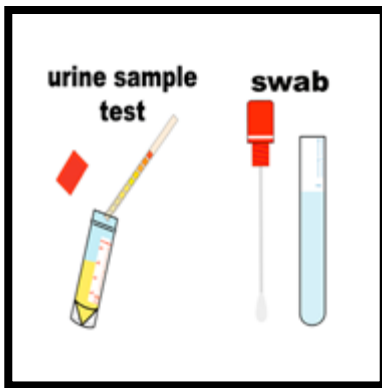
- Meningitis
- Sepsis
- Pneumonia
- Fits (Seizures)

Some baby's die from GBS infection.



GBS is carried in the vagina or rectum (bum hole)

- 2-4 in 10 of women have this bug
- You do not catch it by having sex.

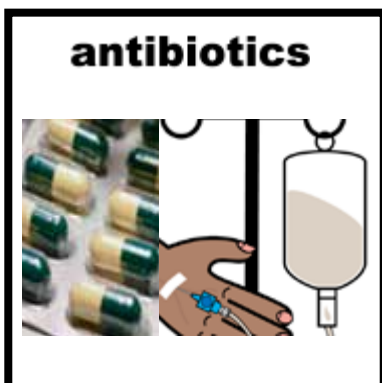


GBS is sometimes found in pregnancy in;

- Urine
- A vaginal swab
- A rectal swab (bum hole)



To protect your baby from becoming unwell with GBS we will give you antibiotics.



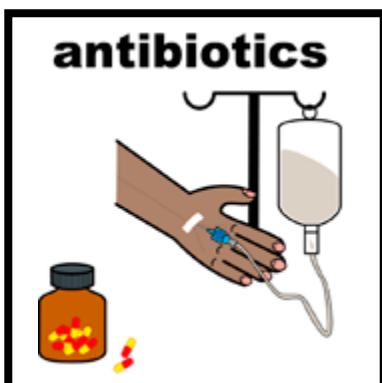
If GBS is found in your urine you will be given antibiotic tablets whilst you are pregnant.

If GBS is found in your urine, you will also be given antibiotics into your vein by a drip.

- When your waters break

Or

- When you are in labour



If GBS is found in a swab you will be given antibiotics into your vein by a drip

- When your waters break

Or

- When you are in labour



The maternity staff will do 24 hours of observations on your baby once it has been born.

This is to look for any signs of infection.



Signs of infection can include;

- Fever
- Poor feeding
- Being irritable (grumpy)
- Floppiness
- Being cold

anxious



If you are worried that your baby has any of these symptoms and you are in hospital speak to the Midwife caring for you.

worried



If you are ever worried about your baby's health when you leave hospital, you should;

- Speak to your GP

OR

- Call 111

If you are worried that your baby is seriously unwell you should

Call 999

**ask
questions**



If you have any questions about GBS ask the Midwife or Doctor caring for you.

This information can be offered in other formats on request, including a language other than English and Braille.

RD&E (Eastern Services) main switchboard: 01392 411611 NDDH (Northern Services) main switchboard: 01271 322577

For Royal Devon services log on to: <https://royaldevon.nhs.uk>

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