

Information for women with Group B Streptococci (GBS) in pregnancy

Some women are found to be carriers of bacteria known as Group B streptococci. It is not unusual for this bacteria to be identified during routine screening of urine, or swabs from the vagina during pregnancy. This does not mean that you have an infection at present, therefore treatment is not required. There is no need for special monitoring during the pregnancy.

However to prevent your baby from becoming infected after delivery it is important that antibiotics are given during labour. This is referred to as “prophylactic treatment,” which means prevention, or to take precaution. Ideally the antibiotics should be given at least four hours prior to the birth of your baby.

The doctor in the antenatal clinic will explain and answer any questions you may have, he /she will write instructions for your treatment in your hand held case sheet (blue notes).

It is normal for these antibiotics to be given by injection, into a vein in your arm, (This is referred to as an intravenous injection). Depending on the length of labour the antibiotics will be given every six hours.

Although this information will be written in your records, it is important that you remind the doctor and midwife on the delivery suite so they are aware, and the necessary treatment can be given.

Therefore it is very important that you bring your case sheet with you when you are admitted to the delivery suite.

Your baby

After the birth, the paediatrician or midwife will examine your baby. This is routine practice, and in addition to this, the staff will check baby’s temperature every four hours, for a period of 48 hours.

Key Points

- ◆ Antibiotics are required during labour
- ◆ Information and plan of action is clearly written in hand held case sheet.

- ◆ Always bring your hand held case sheet with you when you attend hospital
- ◆ When labour commences or your waters break it is important that the midwife on the labour ward is informed that antibiotics are required, this information should be given first when you telephone, and again on arrival at delivery suite.
- ◆ Hospital stay will be for a minimum of 48hrs after the birth of baby.

This information is not intended to replace discussion with either medical or midwifery staff. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this leaflet please discuss this with a midwife or obstetrician. The hospital is heavily involved in research and you might be asked to consider taking part in a research study. A midwife or doctor will discuss this with you and answer any questions that you may have.

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Further information

For further information there is a list of useful web sites which can be found on the Liverpool Women's Hospital web site.

Go to

www.lwh.org.uk

Click on

Clinical Services

↓

Support & Information

↓

Useful organisations

If you require any advice about the information on the web sites please speak to a midwife or doctor at the hospital or a community midwife at the GP surgery

Support Group

The Group B Strep Support Group can be contacted at

Group B Strep Support

West Sussex

RH16 1GF

Tel 01444416176

Fax 08701615540

E mail info@adss.org.uk

Or visit the web site at
www.gbss.org.uk

This leaflet may be available in different formats on request

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