



Group B Streptococcus (GBS)

Group B strep is a bacteria that is naturally present in the gastrointestinal tract of 15-40% of women. If present in the vagina when the baby delivers, GBS may cause serious infections in a newborn infant. To test for GBS, a culture is obtained between 35-37 weeks of pregnancy. Please ask to know your GBS status before delivery. Patients undergoing elective cesarean section with intact membranes are automatically given prophylactic (preventive) antibiotics and no GBS testing is necessary. If your test comes back positive for GBS, you have a history of group B strep in your urine or vagina, or have had a previous baby infected with GBS, you should get antibiotics when you begin labor or your water breaks. The antibiotics are given through an intravenous line (IV). The antibiotics help during labor only – they are not given before labor because the bacteria recolonize the vagina. More detailed information about GBS can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/general/protect-your-baby-GBS.htm>