

# Risk factors for group B Strep infection in babies



There are six situations where a newborn baby is known to have a higher risk of developing group B Strep infection:

## Risk factors for group B Strep infection in newborn babies:

- Mum has had a previous baby infected with group B Strep - risk 10 times higher
- Group B Strep found in Mum's urine during the current pregnancy - risk 4 times higher
- Mum has a raised temperature during labour (37.8°C or higher) - risk 4 times higher
- Group B Strep detected on a vaginal or rectal swab during the current pregnancy - risk 3 times higher
- Labour starts or waters break before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy - risk 3 times higher for each
- Waters break more than 18 hours before delivery - risk 3 times higher

## Risk factors multiply each other:

- Woman carrying group B Strep this pregnancy – risk x 3
- Woman carrying group B Strep + in preterm labour – risk x 3 x 3 = x 9

## Risk factors which prompt the offer of intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis (IAP) in the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) 2012<sup>1</sup> guideline:

- Mum has had a previous baby infected with group B Strep
- Group B Strep bacteriuria detected during the current pregnancy
- Group B Strep is detected on a vaginal swab in the current pregnancy
- Mum is pyrexial in labour

## Risk factors which do not prompt the offer of IAP in the RCOG guideline:

- Labour starts or waters break before 37 weeks of pregnancy
- Waters break more than 18 hours before delivery

## NICE Antibiotics for Neonatal Infection Guideline CG149<sup>2</sup> states:

- Consider IAP using intravenous benzylpenicillin to prevent early-onset neonatal infection for women in preterm labour if there is prelabour rupture of membranes of any duration
- Consider IAP using intravenous benzylpenicillin to prevent early-onset neonatal infection for women in preterm labour if there is suspected or confirmed intrapartum rupture of membranes lasting more than 18 hours



**Group B Strep Support**

Preventing life-threatening group B Strep infection in newborn babies

[www.gbss.org.uk](http://www.gbss.org.uk)

tel. 01444 416176

1 | Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists Clinical Green Top Guideline No 36 Prevention of early onset neonatal GBS disease (issued 2003, updated 2012)  
<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/gtg36/>

2 | National Institute of Care & Health Excellence CG149 Antibiotics for early-onset neonatal infection: Antibiotics for the prevention and treatment of early-onset neonatal infection  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg149>