



Group B Streptococcus (GBS)

What is GBS?

Group B streptococcus (GBS) is a common bacterium (germ) often found living harmlessly in the intestines of adults as well as the birth canal of women.

Why is GBS important?

An infection may occur when the germ enters the bloodstream, tissues or organs. GBS can sometimes cause serious infections in a newborn baby, including infections of the blood, brain and lung.

What should I do for my baby?

Your baby is currently well. However, it is important for you to continue to observe your baby for signs of infection such as

- Poor feeding or vomiting
- A change in behavior such as being lethargic, drowsy, irritable or crying excessively
- Breathing difficulty
- Turning off-colour, blue or pale
- Fever
- Abnormal body movements

How long is a baby at risk for a GBS infection?

GBS infection usually affects a baby in the first week of life. However, there are some GBS infections that occur up to 3 months old.

If you are uncertain about your baby's well-being, you should bring your baby to see a doctor.