

Group B Streptococcus, GBS, or Beta Strep Test

Group B Streptococcus, GBS, is an organism that women can carry as a normal vaginal bacteria. Of pregnant and non-pregnant women, 10% - 40% will test positive for GBS at any given time.

For woman carrying GBS, transmission of this bacteria to the baby during pregnancy rarely occurs, therefore, patients are not treated with an antibiotic prenatally. Although rare, transmission to the neonate during labor can occur and may result in pneumonia, meningitis, or sepsis. Therefore, if you test positive for GBS, you will be given an antibiotic through an IV when you are in labor. An IV antibiotic decreases the chance of transmitting GBS to your baby.

At approximately 36 weeks, during your prenatal visit, we will check to see if you test positive for GBS. This test is a simple culture of the vaginal / rectal area. Our office will notify you of your results by phone, within 5 - 7 days of your test.