

Your baby is at risk of becoming sick

We are here to help



What is Group B Streptococcus (GBS)?

GBS is normal bacteria that lives on the skin. GBS is not harmful to adults. Most pregnant women who carry GBS bacteria have healthy babies, but there is a small chance that GBS can pass to the baby at birth and make the baby sick.

What is Chorioamnionitis (Chorio)?

Chorioamnionitis is an infection of the fluid and the sac (placenta) that is around an unborn baby. Chorio is caused by common bacteria, such as E. coli or by GBS, that travel from the vagina into the uterus during labor. Chorio puts the baby at risk for infection after birth.

Signs of Chorio may include:

- Fever in mom (over 100.4°F)
- High heart rate in mom or baby
- Tender uterus

Your baby may be more likely to become sick if one of these is present:

- Your GBS test was positive during this pregnancy.
- One of your other children had a GBS infection soon after birth.
- You had a fever or chorioamnionitis.
- Your water broke more than 18 hours before you had your baby.
- Your baby is born early.

What happens now?

Special care ordered by your baby's doctor or nurse practitioner may include:

- **Extra monitoring** - The nursing staff will check on your baby often. Your baby's temperature, pulse, and other vital signs will be watched closely.
- **Blood testing** - Your baby will need to have blood drawn and sent for lab testing.
- **Antibiotics** - Your baby may get antibiotics through an IV. Antibiotics may be given for 2 days up to 10 days.

What are signs that my baby has an infection?

- Trouble breathing
- Low oxygen levels (oxygen level less than 90%)
- Low sugars (less than 40)
- Very sleepy and hard to wake up
- Not eating well
- High (greater than 99.0°F) or low temperature (less than 97.4°F)

Your baby's provider may request a transfer to the NICU if there is an infection that requires ongoing, extra care. The NICU is our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

For more information, ask to speak to your baby's nurse, doctor or nurse practitioner. They will be glad to answer your questions.

Keep in mind that your baby may not have an infection. If your baby does have an infection, early detection and treatment will lower the chance of serious health problems.