

# Understanding your baby's Group B Strep infection



"It's important to be informed about group B Strep – ask for a leaflet."  
says Dr Chris Steele

## Group B Strep is the most common cause of life-threatening infection in newborn babies in the UK (yet most people have never heard of it)

- Without preventative action, around one in every 1,000 babies born in the UK develops GBS infection (700 babies a year)
- GBS infection usually presents as septicaemia, pneumonia and/or meningitis
- Up to 90% of all GBS infections in babies develop by age 6 days
- GBS infection is very rare indeed after a baby is 3 months old

## Most babies who develop GBS infection are successfully treated and make a full recovery

### The risk of GBS infection to future babies can be reduced

- Babies born to mothers who have previously had a baby with GBS infection are at higher risk of developing GBS infection
- Without preventative action, the chance of a future baby developing GBS infection is approximately one in 100
- If appropriate preventative action is taken, the risk of a future baby developing GBS infection can fall to around one in 2,000
- Intravenous antibiotics given in labour to the mothers of babies at higher risk will prevent most GBS infection in newborn babies

Group B Strep Support is a national charity providing accurate and up-to-date information on GBS for families and health professionals. Group B Strep Support wants to see sensitive GBS testing available to all pregnant women on the NHS. Until it is, Group B Strep Support supports the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' national guidelines to identify women and babies at risk of GBS infection through identification of risk factors.

## For more information about GBS

please speak with your health professional team, download information about GBS from [www.gbss.org.uk](http://www.gbss.org.uk) or contact:



prevention  
education  
support  
research

## Group B Strep Support

*Preventing GBS infection in newborn babies*

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