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## **Group B Strep**

Group B Strep, also known as Beta Strep or GBS, is a bacteria that can live in your vagina or rectum. About 20% of women carry this bacteria and do not know it – it does not cause discharge, pain, or any other symptoms of infection and will not make you sick. It is not sexually transmitted and will not affect your husband or partner. However, it can make your baby sick at the time of your labor and delivery.

The Center for Disease Control recommends that all women be cultured for GBS in the third trimester of pregnancy. The test is done with a simple vaginal/peri-rectal culture swab at 35-37 weeks. You will be tested even if you plan to be delivered by Cesarean section.

If you test negative, no further treatment is needed. If your test is positive, we will treat you with IV antibiotics when you break your water or go into labor. We do not need to treat you before labor as GBS does not harm you.

If you are GBS positive and receive antibiotics, there is a 98-99% chance your baby will **NOT** become infected. To maximize your chances of receiving antibiotics in a timely fashion, you will be given special instructions at your 36 week prenatal visit. We ask that you follow the instructions as provided.