

# International Group B Strep Awareness Month



Getting group B strep can be a life-threatening situation, especially for newborns. Learn more about the illness during its awareness month this July.

**Group B strep can lead to:**

- Bloodstream infections
- Bone infections
- Meningitis
- Pneumonia
- Sepsis



Group B strep has no vaccine, but there are ways to decrease the chance your newborn gets the disease.

**Pregnant women should be tested for group B strep once they're 36 to 37 weeks pregnant.** Waiting this long is due to the fact that bacteria in the body comes and goes naturally.



**During labor, a mother who tests positive for group B strep can take antibiotics.** Providing the antibiotics during labor, not before labor, helps the antibiotics be as effective as possible, since bacteria regrows quickly.



Even if you test positive for group B strep, as long as you receive antibiotics during labor, your newborn will have a greatly reduced chance of getting the disease.

**1-in-4,000**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if a pregnant mother tests positive for group B strep **and takes antibiotics** during labor, the newborn will have a 1-in-4,000 chance of developing the disease.

**1-in-200**

If a woman tests positive **but doesn't take antibiotics** during labor, the newborn has a 1-in-200 chance of developing the disease.

**Discuss your concerns around diseases that can affect your newborn with your doctor. Find an available provider at [weillcornell.org/doctors](http://weillcornell.org/doctors)**