



Group B Streptococcus Screening

What is Group B streptococcus?

Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is a common bacterium found in the genital tract and gut of about 16% - 24% of women. It is harmless and is not a sexually transmitted disease. The carrier status may also change over time. Women who are GBS carriers usually do not develop any symptoms.



How is GBS detected?

GBS can be detected in swabs taken from the genital region at 35 - 37 weeks of your pregnancy. Screening for GBS status is not 100% accurate. Occasionally, GBS may be detected in urine samples and you may not require additional GBS vaginal swab tests.

Should I be screened for GBS if I am having a planned caesarean section?

At National University Hospital, we offer universal screening for GBS for mothers who are hoping for a normal vaginal delivery.

However, if you are planning for a caesarean section for any particular reason, you do not need to be screened for GBS. The risk of GBS transmission to the baby is highest during vaginal delivery.



What are complications of maternal GBS colonisation on babies who undergo vaginal delivery?

The majority of babies who are born via normal vaginal delivery to mothers who are GBS carriers, are not affected by GBS.

The incidence of GBS infection in newborns is less than 0.2 per 1,000 live births in Singapore. Furthermore, the majority of the newborns who are affected are preterm babies.

GBS infection is usually in the form of pneumonia (infection of the lung), or meningitis (infection of the lining of spinal cord). In a small number of cases, GBS infection can be severe and life-threatening.

What happens if GBS is detected in my current pregnancy? What should I expect when I go into labour?

You will be given antibiotics at least 4 hours before delivery to ensure adequate coverage. Please inform your doctor if you have an allergy to any antibiotic.

What happens if I do not receive adequate antibiotic coverage during my labour if I am found to be GBS positive?

If you do not receive adequate antibiotic coverage, your baby will be observed for 24 - 48 hours before discharge.

If your baby is delivered less than 4 hours after you have received antibiotics, blood tests will be performed on him/her. Antibiotics will be given until the results show that there is no bacterium detected in your baby's blood (usually around 48 hours). If the blood test results are abnormal, treatment will be given to your baby accordingly.

What are the side effects of antibiotics to me or to my baby?

Allergic reactions may occur if you are not aware that you are allergic to the antibiotic that we give you. In rare cases, the reaction may be severe.

The common side effects include nausea or diarrhoea.



Can I still breastfeed if I am found to be a carrier of GBS?

Yes, you can. There is no evidence to show an increased risk of GBS transmission to babies via breastfeeding.

Would GBS carrier status affect my future pregnancies?

GBS carrier status may change over time. This means that GBS in this current pregnancy may not affect your future pregnancy.

However, if your baby has previously been affected by GBS, prophylactic antibiotics should be given to you during labour for your subsequent pregnancies.

About the National University Centre for Women and Children

National University Centre for Women and Children (NUWoC) is a national university specialist centre that aims to empower women, children and their families to lead healthier lives. We provide comprehensive medical and surgical services ranging from pre-conception to child and maternal health.

NUWoC comprises the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (O&G) and Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children’s Medical Institute (KTP-NUCMI) of National University Hospital. It focuses on the right-siting of appropriate services in the community and builds complementary services in National University Health System’s (NUHS) centres of excellence – Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Alexandra Hospital.

Through a generous gift from the Estate of Khoo Teck Puat, KTP-NUCMI established an integrated outpatient facility with medical, diagnostic and rehabilitation services for children. We are also the only public specialist centre in Singapore that offers paediatric kidney and liver transplant programmes.

For more information about us, visit www.nuh.com.sg/NUWoC.

Contact Us

Emergency (24-hr)

Location: NUH Main Building, Zone F, Level 1
Contact: +65 6772 5000

Women’s Clinic – Emerald/Ruby

Location: NUH Kent Ridge Wing, Zone D, Level 3, D03-06
Operating Hours: 8.30am – 6.00pm (Mon to Thu), 8.30am – 5.30pm (Fri), 8.30am – 12.30pm (Sat)
Email: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

Women’s Clinic – Sapphire

Location: NUH Kent Ridge Wing, Zone D, Level 3, D03-03
Operating Hours: 8.30am – 6.00pm (Mon to Thu), 8.30am – 5.30pm (Fri), 8.30am – 12.30pm (Sat)
Email: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

Women’s Clinic – Jade [Former Clinic G]

Location: NUH Kent Ridge Wing, Zone C, Level 3, C03-02
Operating Hours: 8.30am – 6.00pm (Mon to Thu), 8.30am – 5.30pm (Fri)
Email: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

Fetal Care Centre

Location: NUH Kent Ridge Wing, Zone D, Level 3, D03-04
Operating Hours: 8.00am – 5.30pm (Mon to Thu), 8.00am – 5.00pm (Fri)
Email: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

Clinic for Human Reproduction

Location: NUH Kent Ridge Wing, Zone D, Level 4
Operating Hours: 8.00am – 5.00pm (Mon to Fri), 8.30am – 12.30pm (Sat)

Women’s Clinic @ JMC

Location: Jurong Medical Centre, Level 2
Operating Hours: 8.50am – 11.30pm (Tue & Thu), 2.00pm – 5.00pm (Mon & Fri)

Jurong Clinic for Women

Location: 130 Jurong Gateway, #01-231
Operating Hours: 9.00am – 12.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.00pm (Mon to Sat), 6.00pm – 9.00pm (Mon to Thu)
General Enquiry: +65 6665 4277
Appointment Line: +65 6908 2222
Email: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

GS @ NTFGH

Location: Clinic A73 & A74 Surgery, Tower A – NTFGH, Level 7
Operating Hours: 8.30am – 5.30pm (Mon to Fri), 8.30am – 12.30pm (Sat)
Appointment Line: +65 6908 2222
Email: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg



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Ng Teng Fong General Hospital &
Jurong Community Hospital

Alexandra Hospital

National University Polyclinics

Jurong Medical Centre

National University Cancer Institute, Singapore

National University Heart Centre, Singapore

National University Centre for Oral Health, Singapore

NUHS Diagnostics

NUHS Pharmacy



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OneNUHS Hotline: (65) 6908 2222

OneNUHS General Enquiries: contactus@nuhs.edu.sg

OneNUHS Appointments: appointment@nuhs.edu.sg

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Information is correct at time of printing (Nov 2023) and subject to revision without prior notice.