

Is Your Newborn At Risk For Hepatitis B?

What is Hepatitis B?

- A liver disease that results from infection with the Hepatitis B virus¹
- Varies from a brief mild illness lasting a few weeks to lifelong serious illness¹
- A blood borne illness that is largely transmitted through sexual contact or shared IV needles²

Hepatitis B Vaccines

- Denmark, England, Sweden, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Italy, Japan and other countries only immunize children born to mothers who test positive³
- Vaccinating all children may put “vulnerable children” at risk



Questions for Pregnant Moms

Have you met your doctor's recommendations for prenatal Hepatitis B testing?

YES

NO

Did you test negative for Hep B?

YES

NO

Are you or your partner engaging in high risk behavior during your pregnancy such as IV drug use or unprotected sex?

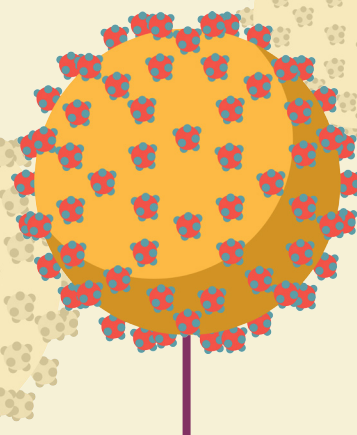
NO

YES

You may want to consider postponing the Hepatitis B vaccine for your baby. Hep B is largely an adult lifestyle disease spread through unprotected sex and sharing of intravenous needles.

Talk to your doctor about following CDC recommendations for Hep B vaccination.

“For every 1,000 pregnant women that give birth each year, 1 to 2 of them have Hepatitis B” - CDC⁴



For more information visit focusforhealth.org

SOURCES

1. CDC, <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/index.htm>
2. Virginia Department of Health, www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/HAI/bbp.htm
3. Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee Prevention of Perinatal Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus: Prenatal Screening of all Pregnant Women for Hepatitis B Surface Antigen <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00000036.htm>
4. CDC, <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/PDFs/HepBPerinatal-ProtectHepBYourBaby.pdf>

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