

Hepatitis B and Your Baby

Why should pregnant women know about Hepatitis B?

It is possible for pregnant women to pass Hep B to her baby at birth. This can happen during a vaginal delivery or a c-section. Babies can also get it through direct contact with infected persons, where blood is passed through breaks in the skin or soft tissues, such as the nose, mouth, and eyes.

What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a virus that infects the liver. It can stay in the body forever and cause severe problems, such as liver damage or liver cancer.

Babies infected with Hep B have a 90% chance of developing lifelong, chronic infection!

1 in 4 children with Hep B will eventually die of health problems from infection if untreated.

People with Hep B often have no symptoms! Pregnant women should get tested for Hep B during prenatal care or before delivery.

Hep B is not spread by breastfeeding, cooking and eating, or hugging and kissing.

What can you do? Vaccinate your baby!

Your baby will need 3 or 4 shots of the Hep B vaccine, depending on the brand. The first shot of the vaccine is recommended to be given within 24 hours of birth.

After the first shot is given, the next shot is typically given at 1 - 2 months of age. The last shot is given between 6 - 18 months of age. Ask your doctor or nurse when to come in for the next shot!

If the mother is has Hep B or is tested HBsAg positive, make sure to discuss with your doctor before birth because the baby may need an HBIG shot to help fight the virus. HBIG is recommended to be given within 12 hours after birth.

Consult your doctor for more information about vaccination!

*Vaccination is safe!
Getting all shots is up to
95% effective in
preventing Hep B!*

Tips to prevent spreading Hep B to your baby

- Do not pre-chew food before feeding your baby. Tiny amounts of blood can sometimes be in a person's mouth.
- Cover cuts and sores
- Make sure your baby's father and everyone in your household is tested for Hep B



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