

Group B Streptococcus (GBS)

What it is: a Bacteria. It is identified with a vaginal culture during your prenatal lab work. It is quite common and usually not harmful. It is not a sexually transmitted infection.

Treatment:

During your labor and delivery, you will receive antibiotics. The most common antibiotic to treat group B strep is penicillin or ampicillin. It's not effective to treat GBS earlier than at delivery. The antibiotics work best when given at least four hours before delivery. Antibiotics are given to flush the bacteria out of your system while the baby comes through the birth canal. It will be given through your IV and will not harm the baby.

It is done to decrease the possibility of exposing the baby to the bacteria. On rare occasions, babies can be affected by the bacteria after the bag of water ruptures. It could make the baby very ill. All mothers who are positive for Group B Strep are treated. Your partner does not need treatment.

After delivery

The baby will be watched closely for signs of infection. If needed the baby may get antibiotics.

Do I need to be treated for group B strep if I am having a c-section?

No, you don't need antibiotics if you're having a c-section delivery. However, you'll still be tested for GBS because labor could start before your scheduled c-section. If your water breaks and you're GBS positive, your baby is at risk of contracting the disease.

[Group B Strep In Pregnancy: Test, Risks & Treatment \(clevelandclinic.org\)](https://clevelandclinic.org/health/conditions/group-b-streptococcus)

What is labor induction?

Labor induction is the use of medications or other methods to bring on (induce) labor.

• Why is labor induced?

Labor is induced to stimulate contractions of the uterus in an effort to have a vaginal birth. Labor induction may be recommended if the health of the mother or fetus is at risk. Some of the reasons for inducing labor include the following:

- Your pregnancy has lasted more than 41 to 42 weeks.
- You have health problems, such as problems with your heart, lungs, or kidneys.
- There are problems with the placenta.
- There are problems with the fetus, such as poor growth.
- There is a decrease in amniotic fluid.
- You have an infection of the uterus.
- You have gestational diabetes or had diabetes mellitus before pregnancy.
- You have chronic hypertension, preeclampsia, or eclampsia.
- You have prelabor rupture of membranes (PROM).

Sometimes labor induction may be needed even if it means that the fetus will be born early. In these cases, the risks of continuing the pregnancy outweigh the risks of the fetus being born too early.

When you choose labor induction and you and your fetus are healthy, it is called elective induction. For example, labor may be induced at your request for reasons such as physical discomfort, a history of quick labor, or living far away from the hospital.

Labor induction may also be considered for healthy women at 39 weeks of pregnancy to reduce the chance of cesarean birth. Elective induction should not be done before 39 weeks of pregnancy.

When is labor not induced?

Some conditions may make a vaginal delivery unsafe for you or your fetus. Some of these conditions include the following:

- Placenta previa (the placenta covers the opening of the uterus)
- The fetus is lying sideways in the uterus or is in a breech presentation
- Prolapsed umbilical cord (the cord has dropped down in the vagina ahead of the fetus)
- Active genital herpes infection
- Some types of previous uterine surgery, such as certain types of cesarean birth or surgery to remove fibroids

In these situations, you may need a cesarean birth to protect the health of you and your fetus.

Oxytocin is a hormone that causes contractions of the uterus. It can be used to start labor or to speed up labor that began on its own. Contractions usually start about 30 minutes after oxytocin is given.

Oxytocin is given through an intravenous (IV) line in the arm. A pump hooked up to the IV tube controls the amount given. Your condition, your contractions, and the fetus's heart rate will be monitored when you are given this medication.

<https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/labor-induction>