



本署檔號 OUR REF: DH FHS/7040/6
來函檔號 YOUR REF:
電 話 TEL: 2961 8855
圖文傳真 FAX: 2574 8977

5 January 2012

Dear Doctor,

Universal Prenatal Screening for Group B Streptococcus

I would like to inform you that the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Department of Health (DH) have jointly launched a screening programme for Group B Streptococcus (GBS) for pregnant women attending HA and DH for antenatal services with effect from January 2012. GBS is the commonest cause of severe early onset infection in newborn infants with a high rate of morbidity and mortality. Of GBS meningitis, about 50% can have neurodevelopmental impairment. Colonisation of GBS in the maternal gastrointestinal and/or genital tracts is strongly associated with early neonatal infection. In Hong Kong, the incidence of early onset GBS (EOGBS) infection in newborn is around 1.0 per 1000 births. Intrapartum antibiotic administration effectively decreases the prevalence of EOGBS disease. Overseas experience has shown that the incidence of EOGBS drops dramatically with the introduction of universal swab-based prevention strategy.

Under the HA/DH screening protocol, pregnant women who attend either HA's obstetric clinics or DH's Maternal & Child Health Centres would be offered screening for GBS between 35-37 weeks' gestation. The screening test consists of taking both low vaginal and rectal swabs. Women who are screened positive for GBS will be given intrapartum prophylactic antibiotics intravenously in HA hospitals. For women who have urinary tract infection due to GBS during current pregnancy, have GBS colonization before 35 weeks, or have a previous baby affected by GBS infection, screening is not needed as they would directly receive prophylactic intrapartum antibiotics. Babies born to all these mothers will be observed for signs of infection before discharge.

Attached please find the information sheet on prevention of neonatal Group B Streptococcus infection issued by HA and DH for your information.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Christine Wong)
for Director of Health

c.c. Hospital Authority