Risk factors for group B Strep infection in babies

There are six situations where a newborn baby is known to have a higher risk of developing group B Strep infection:

- Mum has had a previous baby infected with group B Strep - risk 10 times higher
- Group B Strep found in Mum’s urine during the current pregnancy - risk 4 times higher
- Mum has a raised temperature during labour (37.8°C or higher) - risk 4 times higher
- Group B Strep detected on a vaginal or rectal swab during the current pregnancy - risk 3 times higher
- Labour starts or waters break before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy - risk 3 times higher
- Waters break more than 18 hours before delivery - risk 3 times higher

Risk factors which prompt the offer of intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis (IAP) in the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) 20121 guideline:
- Mum has had a previous baby infected with group B Strep
- Group B Strep bacteriuria detected during the current pregnancy
- Group B Strep is detected on a vaginal swab in the current pregnancy
- Mum is pyrexial in labour

Risk factors which do not prompt the offer of IAP in the RCOG guideline:
- Labour starts or waters break before 37 weeks of pregnancy
- Waters break more than 18 hours before delivery

NICE Antibiotics for Neonatal Infection Guideline CG1492 states:
- Consider IAP using intravenous benzylpenicillin to prevent early-onset neonatal infection for women in preterm labour if there is prelabour rupture of membranes of any duration
- Consider IAP using intravenous benzylpenicillin to prevent early-onset neonatal infection for women in preterm labour if there is suspected or confirmed intrapartum rupture of membranes lasting more than 18 hours

Risk factors multiply each other:
- Woman carrying group B Strep this pregnancy – risk x 3
- Woman carrying group B Strep + in preterm labour – risk x 3 x 3 = x 9

Group B Strep Support
Preventing life-threatening group B Strep infection in newborn babies
www.gbss.org.uk
tel: 01444 416176