Spot the signs of group B Strep infection in babies

Early treatment **saves lives**. If your baby shows signs consistent with group B Strep infection, seek urgent medical advice.

Early-onset

(0-6 days old)

Early-onset group B Strep infection occurs in the first six days of life. Most of these infections show signs within 12 hours of birth. Early-onset group B Strep infection in babies usually presents as sepsis, pneumonia and / or meningitis.

Typical signs include:

- Grunting, noisy breathing, moaning, seems to be working hard to breathe when you look at the chest or tummy
- Being very sleepy and/or unresponsive
- Inconsolable crying
- Being unusually floppy
- Not feeding well or not keeping milk down
- A high or low temperature (if parents have a thermometer), and/or hot or cold to the touch
- Changes in their skin colour (including blotchy skin)
- An abnormally fast or slow heart rate or breathing rate
- Low blood pressure*
- Low blood sugar*

*Identified by tests done in hospital

Late-onset

(7-90 days old)

Late-onset group B Strep infection occurs after a baby's first six days of life, is uncommon after a month and very rare after three months.

Late-onset group B Strep infection in babies usually presents as meningitis and / or sepsis.

Typical signs include:

Typical signs are similar to those of early-onset infection and may include signs associated with meningitis such as:

- Being irritable with a high-pitched or whimpering cry, or moaning
- Blank, staring or trance-like expression
- Floppy, may dislike being handled, be fretful
- Tense or bulging fontanelle (soft spot on babies' heads)
- Turning away from bright light
- Involuntary stiff body or jerking movements
- Pale, blotchy skin

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Group B Strep Support

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