

New Test Announcement



Group B Streptococcus (GBS) LIM Broth Testing by PCR to replace Group B Screening Culture, Effective 11/17/14

In the United States, GBS infection is the major cause of death in newborns who develop sepsis, pneumonia or meningitis. GBS-colonized women transmit the bacteria to their newborn before birth (antepartum) or during birth (intrapartum), causing serious illness in the baby. In November 2010, CDC published a guideline advising that instead of culture, the vaginal/rectal specimens can be tested by nucleic acid amplification (NAAT) after incubation in an enrichment broth. On 11/17/2014 St. Luke's Laboratory will replace screening culture with the Cepheid GBS with LIM PCR test which is a NAAT, LIM enrichment methodology.

Advantages of enrichment broth testing over traditional culture:

Faster turn-around compared to routine culture. (48-72 hours reduced to 36 hours)
Highly sensitive and specific compared to routine culture.

Specimen/Transport Requirements:

- **Collection to be at 35-37 weeks of gestation**
- Cepheid sample collection device (1st swab PCR, 2nd swab for subsequent testing)
- If PCR is positive, and susceptibilities are warranted please call lab within 72 hours for susceptibility testing.
- If PCR indeterminate, routine Strep B culture will be ordered
- Supplies available by requesting from the lab at (218) 249 5200.

If you have questions regarding the Group B Streptococcus Lim Broth PCR, please contact Jon Steinhauer, M.D. (218)249-5749 Microbiology Medical Director or St. Lukes Microbiology (218) 249-5319.