

New Test Announcement



Group B Streptococcus (GBS) Testing by PCR, Effective 4/12/2010

Group B Streptococcus infection is associated with serious illness in newborns born to women colonized with the microorganism. Pregnant women are routinely screened for GBS by traditional culture. Effective 4/12/10, testing for Group B Streptococcus by PCR will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 1 hour turn around time. This qualitative test will **not** replace conventional culture for prenatal screening, but will be appropriate when GBS status is unknown at time of delivery. Women without prenatal care, delivering preterm, or with unknown GBS status at the time of delivery will benefit from this test. If rapid turn around time is needed, please order GBS by PCR (STREP B PCR). Routine culture testing is ordered as Culture, Strep B (CSTREP B), 48 hour turn around time.

Advantages of this upgrade to PCR methodology:

The potential impact of this rapid intrapartum testing is two fold. Unnecessary antibiotic use in women not otherwise indicated for prophylaxis will be reduced, while GBS-colonized women will be treated appropriately, resulting in decreased risk of neonatal sepsis or meningitis.

Specimen/Transport Requirements:

- vaginal/rectal double swabs (1st swab PCR, 2nd swab for subsequent testing)
- If PCR positive, antimicrobial susceptibility testing will be performed if indicated.
- If PCR indeterminate, routine Strep B culture will be reflexively ordered
- Supplies available by requesting from the lab at (218) 249 5200.
- CPT code: 87798

If you have questions regarding the Group B Streptococcus, PCR, please contact K. Warren, M.D. (218)249-6914, Microbiology Medical Director or Deborah Fischer, MT (ASCP) (218) 249-5319, Microbiology Technical Specialist.

St. Luke's Laboratory Services has recently developed a Web page which contains New Test Announcements as well as a link to the SLH Laboratory Test Catalog.

<http://www.slhduluth.com/hospital/laboratory-services/>