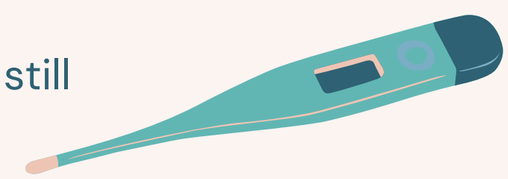
Help Protect Your Baby from Group B Strep

GBS is a very fast-acting type of bacteria and an otherwise healthy-appearing baby can become critically ill within a matter of hours. Being able to recognize the signs of GBS infection in babies is imperative to be able to obtain prompt medical treatment to help optimize the outcome.

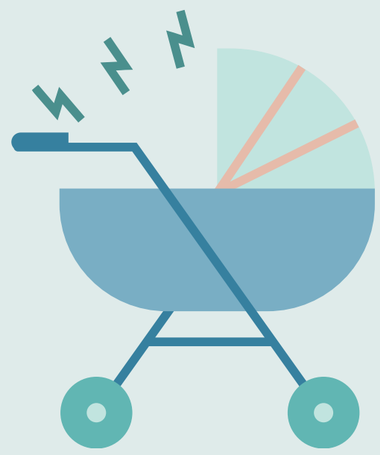
Body temperature

- Fever or low or unstable temperature
- Hands and feet may still feel cold even with a fever



Sounds

- High-pitched cry
- Shrill moaning
- Whimpering
- Inconsolable crying
- Constant grunting or moaning as if constipated or in distress



Eating Habits

- Feeds poorly or refuses to eat
- Not waking for feedings

Behavior

- Marked irritability
- Projectile vomiting
- Reacting as if skin is tender when touched
- Listless
- Floppy
- Not moving an arm or leg
- Blank stare
- Body stiffening
- Uncontrollable jerking

Sleeping Habits

- Sleeping too much
- Difficulty being aroused

Appearance of skin

- Blue, gray, or pale skin due to lack of oxygen
- Blotchy or red skin
- Tense or bulgy spot on top of head (fontanel)
- Infection (pus and/or red skin) at base of umbilical cord or in puncture on head from an internal fetal monitor

Breathing

- Fast, slow, or difficult breathing

(Note: Being unable to latch can be a sign of breathing difficulties)

Source Group B Strep International (gbs-info.org)