



Internet Crowdsourced Parent-Suggested Research Agenda for the Prevention of Group B Streptococcal (GBS) Disease



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Background/Introduction:

Parents of GBS-infected babies send relevant research-focused questions to Group B Strep International, a special interest GBS-focused organization. Review and analyze parental-posed research suggested to GBSI's website or through their social media pages.

Methods:

We reviewed parental questions relevant to GBS research goals.

Results:

- 1) Identify more effective means to prevent GBS-invasive disease in pregnancy or after birth.
- 2) Hasten development an effective GBS vaccine.
- 3) Promote research to reduce neonatal sepsis.
- 4) Common questions include:
 - a) Does vaginal coitus increase risks of GBS perinatal infection?
 - b) How does GBS get into breast milk and is this contamination a cause of disease?
 - c) What are the differences between GBS vaginal and rectal colonization and symptomatic infections such as vaginitis?
 - d) Should heavy GBS colonization be identified and treated?

Conclusion:

- 1) Parents are informed regarding practicable research needs to prevent GBS disease in babies.
- 2) Parents may be a rich source of ideas for identifying relevant research goals to prevent GBS disease.
- 3) Further GBS research is needed to answer these questions and promote better GBS disease prevention strategies.

