

facts on

Routine and Special Tests During Pregnancy Sexually Transmitted Infections and Your Pregnancy

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) affect you and your baby. You can get an STI by having sex with someone who has an infection. You may not know if you have an STI, because you may not have any symptoms. It is important to find out if you or your partner has an STI because it can make your baby sick. If you think that you have an STI or have been infected with an STI, tell your doctor or nurse.

Types of Infections

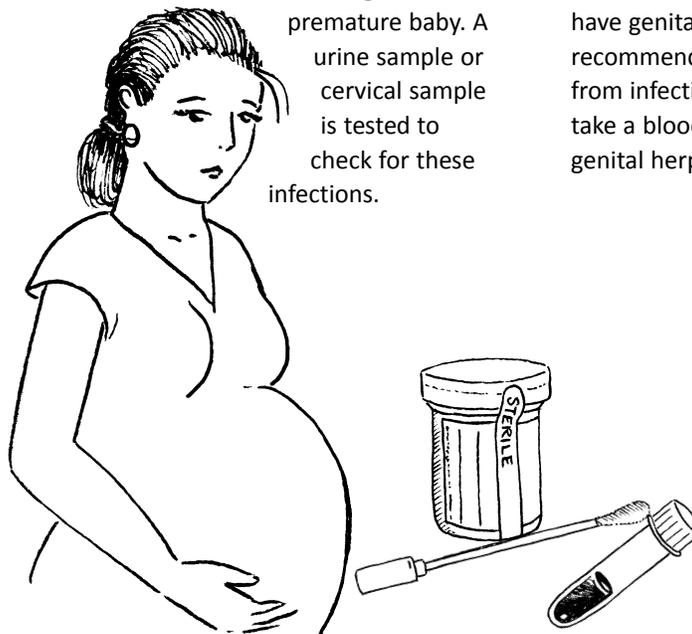
Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and nongonococcal urethritis: If you have chlamydia (klah-MID-ee-a), gonorrhea (gone-o-REE-a), or nongonococcal urethritis (NGU), you can give it to your baby while you are pregnant or during delivery. Babies born with these infections can have eye, ear, joint, blood, or lung infections. You may also have a

miscarriage or a premature baby. A urine sample or cervical sample is tested to check for these infections.

If you have any of these infections, you can be safely treated with antibiotics while pregnant. There is no risk to you or your baby.

Human papilloma virus: Human papilloma (pap-i-LOW-ma) virus (HPV) can cause genital warts; however, you can have HPV but not have any warts. If you think you have HPV, a doctor will need to examine you. If you have HPV, you can be treated safely before your baby is born.

Genital herpes: Genital herpes (HER-pees) causes sores or blisters on or around your vagina. If you have sores or blisters, herpes can be passed to your baby at birth when your baby comes down your vagina. Herpes can cause serious infections in newborns and can result in skin or mouth sores, eye infections, or more serious conditions. If you have genital herpes, your doctor may recommend a C-section to protect your baby from infection. Your doctor or nurse will take a blood sample from you to test for genital herpes.



For More Information

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Syphilis: Syphilis (SIF-i-liss) may cause hard painless sores on or around your vagina or may not cause any symptoms. If you have syphilis, you can pass it on to your baby. If you and your baby are not treated, your baby may die before birth or shortly after birth. If your baby survives, he or she may have brain damage or become blind or deaf. If you and your baby are treated with antibiotics early, you can protect your baby from this infection. Your doctor or nurse will take a blood sample from you to test for syphilis.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus): If you are pregnant and have HIV, you can give it to your baby before he or she is born or during delivery. If you are not treated, there is a 25% chance that you will pass the virus on to your baby. If you take medicine for HIV, you can reduce the chance of infecting your baby to less than 2%. Your doctor or nurse will take a blood sample from you to test for HIV.

For more information about HIV, please see the fact sheet HIV and Pregnancy.

STIs are very common and can be safely treated while you are pregnant.

Talk to your doctor or nurse about STIs and their treatment.

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