

Clinician's Quick Guide

Hepatitis B testing and management in pregnancy and beyond

ANTENATAL CARE

Screen pregnant women for hepatitis B at first antenatal visit.

Three tests required: (MUST write "? Chronic Hepatitis B" on the request form).

- Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)
- Hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs)
- Hepatitis B core antibody (anti-HBc).

HBsAg⁺

(irrespective of anti-HBs and anti-HBc results)

Order additional testing:

- LFTs
- Platelets
- HBeAg and anti-HBe
- HBV DNA viral load
- Hepatitis C serology
- Hepatitis D serology
- HIV serology.

- Check mother's understanding.
- Offer reassurance.
- Refer to HBV or Liver Specialist.

HBV DNA viral load
≥ 200 000IU/mL

HBV DNA viral load
< 200 000IU/mL

Offer anti-viral therapy to the mother in 3rd trimester (Tenofovir disproxil fumarata).

Give hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG to baby in opposite thighs as soon as possible after washing baby (ideally within 12 hours of birth).

Follow up care: Mother

- Continue to offer assurance
- Encourage breastfeeding
- 6 week postnatal check at GP. Discuss ongoing monitoring/cessation or continue treatment?
- Reinforce ongoing 6–12 monthly check-ups for mum.

Follow up care: Baby

- Reinforce importance of follow-up
- HBV vaccinations as per schedule
- HBV test for baby at 9-18 months
- MCHN checks in green book.

Non-infected and non-immune

HBsAg⁻ AND anti-HBs⁻
AND anti-HBc⁻

Recommended hepatitis B vaccination to mother post-birth
OR
during pregnancy if at high risk (e.g. household member HBV positive).

Non-infected and immune

HBsAg⁻ AND anti-HBs⁺ AND anti-HBc⁻
OR
HBsAg⁻ AND anti-HBs^{+/-*} AND anti-HBc⁺

* Note that in some patients anti-HBs titres may wane and become undetectable after many years.

Give hepatitis B vaccine birth dose to baby ideally within 12 hours of birth. (Then as per schedule)

Does mother require hepatitis B vaccine?

Reference:

Hepatitis B Consensus Statement Working Group. *Australian consensus recommendations for the management of hepatitis B infection*. Melbourne: Gastroenterological Society of Australia, 2022

Management of Hepatitis B in Pregnancy. RANZCOG, 2019
<https://wpstaging.ranzcog.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Management-of-Hepatitis-B-in-pregnancy-C-Obs-50.pdf>

The Australian Immunisation Handbook. Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care. 2018
<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au>



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BIRTH

POST-NATAL FOLLOW UP