

Easy B Facts

Mother-to-Child Transmission

There is about a 90% (9 out of 10) chance that a baby born to a mother who is infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV for short) will get chronic or long-term HBV infection. Once a baby has developed chronic HBV infection there is a real chance that it could lead to serious health problems in the future.

If the HBV vaccine and HBV immune globulin (shots to help the body fight off and protect against HBV infection) are given within 12 hours of birth this reduces the chance of the baby getting HBV from 90% to 10%.

It Is Important to Remember:

- Every pregnant women should be tested for HBV – but make sure to ask for the test in case your doctor forgets to test you
- A baby born to a mother with chronic hepatitis B should be given HBV immune globulin and the hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours after birth
- The second shot of vaccine is usually given 1 month after the first shot
- The third shot of vaccine is usually given about 2 to 4 months later
- The good news is that HBV is not transmitted through breast feeding



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**Hepatitis C
Support Project**

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