

## CHAPTER 7: WHEN PREGNANCY BECOMES COMPLICATED

# Infections during Pregnancy

The following chart describes how certain infections may harm your baby. Because the chart addresses serious potential complications, it may seem scary. But remember: If you get any of these infections, you can minimize the potential risks if your caregiver diagnoses the infection early and you and your baby receive prompt treatment. If your baby is infected, the infection can increase some risks:

Infection	Birth defects	Preterm labor	Illness in baby	Comments
Bacterial vaginosis (BV)		X		Problems result from prematurity.
Chicken pox (varicella zoster)	X		X	Slight risk of infection affecting one or all of baby's organs.
Chlamydia trachomatis	X		X	Baby not affected before birth, but may have eye infection or pneumonia after birth.
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	X		X	Risk of brain damage or hearing loss. About 10 percent of babies affected when mother is first infected in first trimester.
Fifth disease (parvovirus B19)			X	May cause severe anemia and related problems for baby.
Gonorrhea (Neisseria gonorrhoea)			X	If baby is infected during birth, infection may cause severe eye infection that may cause blindness.
Group B streptococcus (GBS)		X	X	If baby infected at birth, infection may cause severe disease or death.
Hepatitis B (HBV) or Hepatitis C (HCV)			X	If baby is infected at birth and untreated, she's at high risk of becoming a HBV carrier, but at low risk of becoming a HCV carrier.
Herpes simplex virus (HSV)			X	Risk of infection is highest when mother has first outbreak of genital herpes in pregnancy. Any recurrent infection at birth may affect baby. Treatment of outbreaks reduces the chance of infection.
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)			X	Treatment of mother can greatly reduce the risk of baby's acquiring HIV during pregnancy or at birth.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)			?	Low risk of baby's acquiring HPV during pregnancy or at birth. May cause genital warts or cervical cancer later in child's life.
Listeriosis (Listeria monocytogenes)		X	X	May cause miscarriage or infection in baby after birth.
Lyme disease		?	?	Bacteria from a tick bite can cross the placenta. Risks are unknown, but may cause miscarriage or stillbirth.
Mumps (Paramyxovirus)			X	Although the connection is unconfirmed, infection may cause miscarriage. May cause infection in baby after birth.
Measles		?	X	May cause infection in baby after birth.
Periodontal disease (gum disease)		X		Severe gingivitis greatly increases risk of preterm birth.
Rubella (German measles)	X	X	X	When baby is infected in first half of pregnancy, infection increases risk of problems with hearing, vision, heart function, or brain development.
Syphilis (Treponema pallidum)	X		X	Possible problems with baby's eyes, skin, heart, bones, and nervous system. May cause death.
Toxoplasmosis (Toxoplasma gondii)	X		X	Possible effects on all of baby's organs; may cause death. Problems are more severe if mother is first infected in first half of pregnancy.
Trichomoniasis (Trichomonas vaginalis)		?		Problems result from prematurity. Infected mothers often have other infections.
Yeast (candidiasis)			X	Exposure may occur with vaginal birth, but infection is rare. Chances of infection on mother's nipples or in baby's mouth (thrush) increase if mother had antibiotics near time of birth (see page 423).

Key: X = Possible ? = Questionable