

Group B Streptococcus screening test

Patient Instructions

This test is performed on pregnant women to detect the presence of colonisation of the genital area by Group B Streptococcus. This bacterium colonises approximately 30% of pregnant women and can, rarely, cause life-threatening blood infections and meningitis in newborns. Screening for Group B Streptococcus carriage usually occurs in the third trimester of pregnancy so that prophylactic antibiotics can be administered to colonised mother at the time of delivery to prevent these nasty complications.

This test requires you to collect a swab from your vagina and also your anus, since the detection of Group B Streptococcus may be missed if only the vagina is sampled.

COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

After completing the paperwork, the collector will give you gloves and a swab to use for the collection. The collector can stay in the collection room to advise you, or, if you prefer, will leave you in private to collect the sample.

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- Step 1** Wearing both gloves, find a comfortable position, either lying on the bed or standing, whichever is most comfortable for you. Remove the swab from the packaging and, holding the plastic end of the swab, insert the cotton end of the swab 2cm into your vagina and remove.
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- Step 2** Using the same swab, insert the cotton end 1cm into your anus (back passage) and remove.
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- Step 3** Remove the cap from the plastic sterile tube and place the swab into the tube. Ensure the cap fits firmly.
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- Step 4** On the label of the plastic tube, write your name, date of birth, and the date and time of the collection. Remove the gloves and dispose of them in a rubbish bin, and wash your hands. Place the swab container in the transport bag and hand it to the collector.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any further information or questions regarding this procedure please call Client Services on **(08) 8366 2000**