

# GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS

## (BETA STREP)

- ❖ Beta strep is a strain of bacteria that normally live in the vaginal and rectal area of 20% to 40% of pregnant women and may be transmitted to the baby as the baby passes through the birth canal.
- ❖ 2% of newborn babies delivered to these affected women will develop Group B strep disease and become very ill with a 6% mortality rate. The bacteria may infect the infant's blood, lungs, or brain. Group B is more likely to be a problem if a baby is premature.
- ❖ Increased risk also occurs with prolonged rupture of amniotic fluid-if the membranes have been ruptured for more than 30 hours when labor commences and for women who have had a previous baby who contracted a Group B infection.
- ❖ In accordance with the guidelines published by the Center for Disease Control, the American College of OB/GYN's and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we screen all of OB patients for the presence of these bacteria at approximately 35 to 37 weeks gestation.
- ❖ All mothers with Beta Strep positive perineal and/or urine cultures will receive antibiotics in labor to prevent an infection to the baby. If you have risk factors for Beta Strep and/or your status is unknown then you will also be treated as if you are a carrier.
- ❖ You should anticipate an examination in our office during your 35<sup>th</sup> to 37<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. A cotton swab will be placed just inside the vaginal opening and then swabbed around the outside of the anus.