Congenital Syphilis

Sexually Transmitted Infections & Pregnancy

WHAT IS CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

You can get syphilis through sexual contact including vaginal, anal and oral sex - this is why it is known as a sexually transmitted infection (STI). You can also pass the infection to your baby. When this happens it is known as congenital syphilis. Syphilis will not go away on its own, you must be treated by a healthcare provider.

SYPHILIS CAN AFFECT YOUR PREGNANCY & YOUR BABY

Having syphilis while pregnant can lead to:

- Miscarriage
- Premature birth
- Problems with the umbilical cord and/or placenta

Babies born with CS can experience (4):

- deformed bones
- severe anemia (low blood count)
- enlarged liver & spleen
- brain and nervous problems, like blindness & deafness
- meningitis
- skin rashes

WHY BE CONCERNED?

Up to 40% of babies born to women with untreated syphilis may be stillborn or die from the infection as a newborn (4)

Sometimes you can have syphilis & not have any symptoms, the same is true for your baby.

HELPFUL TIPS

TIP #1 Syphilis is treatable.

TIP #2 Get tested early in your pregnancy. Care providers in GA are required by law to test pregnant women for syphilis.

TIP #3 You can get re-infected. Talk to your partner about getting tested. If you have unprotected sex with multiple partners ask to get retested.

TIP #4 If you are of child bearing age & sexually active, get tested regularly for syphilis & other STIs.

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS BY THE NUMBERS

10th where Georgia ranks in the nation for congenital syphilis in 2017

23 Number of reported cases in our state

100% Percentage of congenital syphilis cases that are treatable with medication

FOR MORE FROM OUR RESOURCES:

(1) CDC Syphilis Facts (2) GA Dept. of Public Health

(3) March of Dimes   (4) CDC Congenital Syphilis Facts

QUESTIONS?

Contact our free & confidential warm line at:

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