

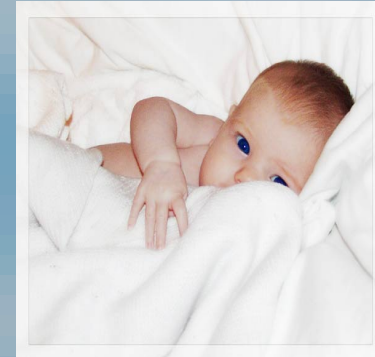
Hepatitis B Prevention in Neonates

Purpose

To implement a tool that reduces the risk of Hepatitis B transmission in neonates.

Questions

- What is are the risks for babies born to Hepatitis B mothers?
- What are the interventions for a Hepatitis B baby?
- If there are no interventions, what are the implications and the risks?
- What is the profile of the population who has Hepatitis B?
- Who's at risk and why?



Methods

Research literature reviewed articles.
Contact all hospitals under Fraser Health Authority.
Explain the tool to physicians, mid-wives, and clinic coordinators of maternity clinics under Fraser Health Authority.



Results (Answers to the questions)

- If the mother is infected but the infant did not become infected through perinatal transmission, the infant still has a 30-60% chance of acquiring the infection due to person-to-person contact for the first five years of their life (Crawford & Pruss, 1993).
- “When hepatitis B vaccine and one dose of HBIG are administered within 24 hours of birth, the two substances are 85-95% effective in preventing both HBV infection and the chronic carrier state” (Crawford & Pruss, 1993, p. 491).
- “When the HBV is transmitted during this early childhood period, chronic infection remains a 60% risk in the 2nd year of life and declines to a 10% risk by 6 years of age” (Margolis et al., 1991 cited in Crawford & Pruss, 1993, p.491).

•Groups at high risk include:

1. People who are exposed to blood or body fluids of an infected person
2. Live in the same household with an infected person
3. Have sex with a carrier or chronic infected person
4. Inject illicit drugs
4. Have more than one sex partner
5. Travel to countries with high incidence of Hep B
6. Street sex trade workers (Liver Foundation, 2007)

- Due to studies, the ethnic groups that are at most high risk for hepatitis B are a number of foreigners such as “Alaskan natives, Pacific Islanders and immigrants from HBV-endemic areas, such as Southeast Asia and Africa” (Crawford & Pruss, 1993, p.492).



Protect babies from hep B!