

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS



Marion County
OREGON
Health & Human Services

WHAT IS CONGENITAL SYPHILIS?

Syphilis can be passed to a baby during pregnancy. When this happens, it is called congenital syphilis (CS). CS can cause serious health problems when not treated.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONGENITAL SYPHILIS?

CS can cause:

- Miscarriage
- Stillbirth
- Prematurity
- Low birth weight
- Death shortly after birth

Babies born with CS can have many health problems, including:

- Brain and nerve problems, like blindness or deafness
- Severe anemia
- Enlarged liver and spleen
- Deformed bones
- Meningitis
- Skin rashes
- Jaundice

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR SYPHILIS IN PREGNANCY AND CS?

Syphilis and CS can both be treated and cured with antibiotics. Damage caused by syphilis and CS may not be reversible. So, early detection and treatment are key.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT CONGENITAL SYPHILIS?

If you are diagnosed with syphilis while pregnant:

- Get treated right away
- Finish treatment on time
- Attend all prenatal appointments
- Get tested twice during the pregnancy and again at delivery
- Notify sex partners they should get tested and treated
- Avoid having sex with partners that have not been tested and treated

FOLLOW UP

- Avoid having sex until at least 7 days after you and your sex partner(s) have completed treatment
- Avoid having sex until any sore or lesion has scabbed over
- Retest for syphilis 3 months after completing treatment and when recommended by the doctor during prenatal care

SCAN ME 

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