

# Moms with HBV

## You're important too!

 Remember to get screened for liver disease

You will probably show no symptoms and feel healthy, but are still at increased risk for liver damage or cancer. However, with regular screening, you can lead a normal and healthy life. Ask your doctor for the following tests:

Every	Test	Screens for
6 months	AFP blood test	liver cancer
	ALT/SGPT blood test	liver damage
1 year	ultrasound	liver cancer

 Don't rush into treatment

Not every person with chronic HBV infection needs treatment. But if your ALT level is elevated, treatment with antiviral medication may be appropriate. Appropriate treatment can reduce your risk of further liver damage or cancer.

Be sure to review all medications with your doctor. Even some over-the-counter or herbal medications can injure your liver.

 Get the hepatitis A vaccine

 Avoid drinking alcohol

 Protect your loved ones

Make sure your family and partner are tested, and vaccinated if they are not already protected.

Your local health department may contact you to ensure your baby is fully protected against HBV.

## Unite against HBV.



The **Jade Ribbon** symbolizes the united voices of those fighting hepatitis B and liver cancer worldwide.



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## Protect yourself and your baby with the first "anti-cancer vaccine"

 **If you have not been infected, get vaccinated**

Hepatitis B can still be transmitted through unprotected sex and contaminated blood (sharing toothbrushes, razors, or needles for tattoos/piercings).

The 3 shots given over 6 months are safe, even during pregnancy. The hepatitis B vaccine is so effective in preventing liver cancer that it is known as the first "anti-cancer vaccine."

 **Make sure your baby is vaccinated at birth**

Since 1991, U.S. national guidelines have recommended that all newborns be vaccinated against hepatitis B. The 3 shots can protect your baby for life against HBV, which will reduce the risk of liver cancer and liver damage in the future.

Time	Infant should receive
At birth	birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine
1-2 months	2nd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
6 months	3rd dose of hepatitis B vaccine

The vaccine is safe, even for premature babies.



## HBV and Moms-to-Be

- ♥ Hepatitis B (HBV) is a serious viral infection that attacks the liver, and can lead to premature death from liver cancer or liver failure.
- ♥ In the U.S., approximately 10-15 people die every day as a result of HBV infection.
- ♥ Hepatitis B can be transmitted from an infected mother to her child at birth.
- ♥ Newborns who become infected with HBV have a 90% chance of developing chronic (lifelong) infection.

Fortunately, HBV is completely preventable with a safe and effective vaccine.

 **Ask your doctor for the results of your HBV test**

Most people with chronic HBV infection have no symptoms. As an expecting mother, you should have already been tested for HBV with the following blood test:

- ♥ **Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg):** identifies if you are a HBV carrier and have chronic hepatitis B

## Take extra precautions if you are a mom with HBV

 **During pregnancy:**

At present, antiviral HBV treatments are not recommended during pregnancy. If you are already on treatment, talk to your doctor.

 **At time of birth:**

In addition to the first shot of the hepatitis B vaccine, make sure your newborn receives the hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG) shot.

Time	Infant born to mother with HBV should receive
<b>At birth</b>	birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine <b>and hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG)</b>
1-2 months	2nd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
6 months	3rd dose of hepatitis B vaccine
<b>9-18 months</b>	<b>HBsAg and anti-HBs* tests to confirm that your child is protected</b>

\* The hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) blood test checks for protection against HBV.

**Cesarean sections** (C-sections) have not been found to prevent HBV transmission from mother to child. Hepatitis B vaccination along with the HBIG shot is the best way to protect your newborn against HBV infection.

 **In the first 6 months:**

It is critical for your child to complete the hepatitis B vaccine series on time. This will be more than 95% effective in protecting your newborn from HBV infection.

**Breastfeeding** is safe for your baby. HBV is not transmitted through breast milk.