

# **Dr. Rebecca L. Simon**

Obstetric Services

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## **BETA STREP**

Group B Streptococcus (Beta Strep) is a type of bacteria that can be found in up to 40% of pregnant women. This bacterium may be found in the digestive, urinary, and reproductive tracts. In women, it is most often found in the vagina and rectum. This bacterium can be passed to the baby when the bag of water (amniotic sac) is ruptured or leaking. Most babies with these bacteria do not have any problems; however, occasionally they may become ill with a respiratory illness.

We test for the bacterium between 34-36 weeks of pregnancy. During this exam, we do a vaginal culture where we use a q-tip and insert it into the vagina for a few seconds. The culture is sent to the lab and the results will be back at your next appointment. If it is positive, upon rupture of the membranes or when in active labor, you will be given IV medications. If it is negative, there will be no need for treatment.