 

Tranquility Birth Services Informed Consent and Waivers

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, the National standard states the following for Group B Strep:

* Pregnant women should undergo vaginal-rectal screening for GBS colonization at 35-37 weeks.
* Intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis (IAP) is recommended for:
* Women who delivered a previous infant with GBS disease
* Women with GBS bacteriuria in the current pregnancy
* Women with a GBS-positive screening result in the current pregnancy
* Women with unknown GBS status who deliver at less than 37 weeks’ gestation, have an intrapartum temperature of 100.4°F or greater, or have rupture of membranes for 18 hours or longer.
* Penicillin remains the preferred agent with ampicillin an acceptable alternative.

I am accepting the Group B Strep Test between 35-37 weeks.

Client\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I accept the responsibility of declining the Group B Strep protocol as state above.

Client\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vitamin K Injection

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Vitamin K protocol and information is the following:

Vitamin K is needed for blood to clot normally. Babies are born with very small amounts of vitamin K in their bodies which can lead to serious bleeding problems. Research shows that a single vitamin K shot at birth protects your baby from developing dangerous bleeding which can lead to brain damage and even death .Ask your healthcare provider about the benefits of Vitamin K before your delivery. Protect your newborn by making sure he or she gets the shot after birth.

What is Vitamin K ?

Vitamin K is a vital nutrient that our body needs for blood to clot and stop bleeding. We get vitamin K from the food we eat. Some vitamin K is also made by the good bacteria that live in our intestines. Babies have very little vitamin K in their bodies at birth because:

Why does my baby need a vitamin K shot?

1. Vitamin K from the mom is not easily shared with the developing baby duringthe pregnancy

2. The intestine of the newborn baby hasvery little bacteria so they do not make enough vitamin K on their own.Without enough vitamin K, blood cannot clot well. As a result, bleeding can occur anywhere in the body. This means not only that bleeding from a cut or bruise may continuefor a long time, but that uncontrolled bleeding into the brain and other organs may occur.

What are the warning signs of VKDB?

In the majority of cases of VKDB, there are NO WARNING SIGNS at all before a life-threatening bleed starts.

Babies who do not get a vitamin K shot at birth might develop any of these signs of VKDB:

* Easy bruising especially around the baby’s head and face
* Bleeding from the nose or umbilical cord
* Paler than usual skin color or, for dark skinned
* babies, pale appearing gums
* Yellow eyes after the baby is 3 weeks old
* Blood in the stool, black tarry stool, or vomiting blood
* Irritability, seizures, excessive sleepiness, or a lot of vomiting may all be signs of bleeding in the brain.

Is Vitamin K safe?

A study from the early 1990’s found a possible link between getting vitamin K and developing childhood cancer. Pediatricians became very concerned about this and have done many studies since then, in many different ways, trying to see if this link was true. None of the studies found this link again, even though doctors and scientists looked very hard for it.

Why are babies given a vitamin K injection?

Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding (VKDB), a clotting disorder, causes spontaneous, uncontrolled bleeding which can cause death or permanent brain damage. Intramuscular injection of vitamin K prevents VKDB in almost all babies.

What are the risks of getting the injection?

According to mercola.com the side effects are as followed: There are three primary areas of risk associated with these injections:

Among the most significant is inflicting pain immediately after birth which has the potential to cause psycho-emotional damage and trauma to a newborn. The amount of vitamin K injected into newborns is 20,000 times the needed doseiv . Additionally, the injection may also contain preservatives that can be toxic for your baby's delicate, young immune system. An injection creates an additional opportunity for infection in an environment that contains some of the most dangerous germs, at a time when your baby's immune system is still immature. It is, however, also important to correct the record about one myth that has been propagated for years about the dangers of vitamin K injections in newborns. It was suggested some years ago that vitamin K injections were associated with cancer and leukemia. However, that conclusion was in error. There is NO known association between the two. As mentioned above, these injections may not be the best method of delivery for the necessary vitamin K -- but the increased risk for cancer is not a legitimate concern. Although premature clamping of the umbilical cord should be avoided as it can result in potential brain damage, there is insufficient evidence to say that this can lead to lower vitamin K levels in newborns, although you will occasionally see this claim made.

Potential risks of vitamin K injection are jaundice, flushing, rash, or a mild reaction at the injection site. Because the skin is broken when an injection is given, infection is possible, but exceedingly rare. Also, because a foreign substance is being injected, there is the risk of anaphylactic shock, a profound allergic reaction that can cause death. This is very rare.

Other risks: Are hypothetical and require some background information:

The level of vitamin K in newborns is much lower than that of children and adults, and it usually decreases further after birth. In fact, all mammals are born with lower levels than their mothers. In addition, breastmilk contains only a small amount of vitamin K. The healthy breastfed newborn who does not receive vitamin K supplementation has low vitamin K levels for the first few weeks to months of life. Despite the fact that all this is characteristic of the normal newborn period it is still referred to as a deficiency. Babies have low levels of vitamin K relative to adult levels. Babies also have large heads relative to adult head size, but this is not considered bad. It is considered good, because the human brain needs to be large at birth. It is not known why babies are born with low vitamin K levels. This has led many researchers, midwives, and parents to believe that there is a good reason for lower vitamin K levels in newborns. Some researchers suggest that a low vitamin K level is protective against tumor formation and cancer, but the evidence to date is inconclusive. It is unknown what risk, if any, there is in exposing the newborn to an unnaturally high concentration of vitamin K. Therefore, by administering vitamin K to normal infants we may be actually causing other problems we don’t yet understand.

What are my options?

1. Give the baby an injection of vitamin K soon after birth.

• Your midwife will give your baby the injection within 2-3 hours of birth

 The standard dosage is 0.5-1

2. Wait and see if a hemorrhage develops, and then treat it with administration of vitamin K. Get care for your baby immediately if any symptoms develop. Remind your baby’s health care provider that the baby was not given vitamin K. Because VKDB is so rare, many care providers may not have enough experience to recognize it. If a baby is treated with a vitamin K injection immediately damage may be avoided.

Please indicate which option you choose for your baby and sign:

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| --- | --- |
|  I would like my baby tohave the vitamin K injection:I understand that there are known and unknown risks with the vitamin K injection, and I release and hold harmless my midwife and Tranquility Birth Services from any complications that may occur.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date | Watch and wait:  I do not want my baby to have vitamin K. I prefer the wait and see approach. I accept the risks and release and hold harmless my midwife and Tranquility Birth Services from the consequences of this decision.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date |

Erythromycin ophthalmic ointment is routinely given to newborns when they are born in the hospital, to prevent an infection of the tissue surrounding the eye (conjunctivitis), which if not treated, can lead to blindness. Conjunctivitis can be caused by both normal bacteria or bacteria associated with a sexually transmitted disease such as Gonorrhea or Chlamydia that may be present in the birthing woman’s reproductive tract without her having any symptoms of infection.

This document tells you the reasons erythromycin ophthalmic ointment is routinely given to all newborns born in the hospital. Choosing to administer this medication to your baby shortly after birth may completely prevent the problems listed above. However, not all parents are comfortable having antibiotic ointment placed in their newborn’s eyes, especially if the mother has tested negative for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia infection.

WAIVER

I have read and understand the above material, I know the risks and benefits of giving my newborn baby erythromycin ophthalmic ointment, I have had the opportunity to have all my questions answered with regard to newborn eye prophylaxis and I have chosen to decline administration of this medication to my baby.

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