

What is Perinatal Hepatitis B?

- Perinatal hepatitis B occurs when a newborn is infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) during childbirth from an HBV-positive mother.
- Without intervention, there is up to a 90% chance of the baby developing chronic hepatitis B, which can lead to liver disease or cancer.

Importance of Vaccination and Serologic Testing

- The first step in preventing infection is to administer the hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) within 12 hours of birth.
- Completing the 3-dose hepatitis B vaccine series is essential.
- Post-vaccination serologic testing (PVST) is crucial to confirm protection.

What is Post-Vaccination Serologic Testing (PVST)?

- Timing: Conduct PVST at 9–12 months of age or 1–2 months after completing the vaccine series.
- Tests Performed:
 1. HBsAg (Hepatitis B surface antigen): Confirms no active infection.
 2. Anti-HBs (antibody to HBsAg): Measures immunity.

Interpreting PVST Results

Results	Indicates	Action Needed
HBsAg (-) & Anti-HBs (≥ 10 mIU/mL)	Baby is protected and immune.	No further action required.
HBsAg (-) & Anti-HBs (< 10 mIU/mL)	Baby not protected. Vaccine failure.	Administer an additional vaccine dose or repeat the series. Retest after.
HBsAg (+)	Baby infected with HBV.	Refer for specialist care

Why is PVST Important?

- Ensures the effectiveness of vaccination.
- Identifies babies who may need additional doses or are infected.

Steps for Healthcare Providers

1. Educate parents about the importance of completing the vaccine series and PVST.
2. Schedule PVST after the third vaccine dose.
3. Follow up on results and ensure appropriate care.

Key Takeaways

- Timely vaccination and PVST can prevent chronic hepatitis B in infants.
- Collaborate with healthcare providers to ensure infants born to HBV-positive mothers are protected.



For more information, visit the Georgia Perinatal Hepatitis B Program website: <https://dph.georgia.gov/perinatal-hepatitis-b> or call the 24/7 Reporting Line at 1-866-PUB-HLTH (782-4584)