

Overview: What Obstetricians-Gynecologists Need to Know

Disease Burden

United States:

- 1.4 million people chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV)¹
- 25-45 year olds have the highest rates of HBV infection²
- 20,000 infants born yearly to hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive) women³
- 1,000 infants chronically infected annually due to infected mothers not being identified and not receiving appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis³
- 52% of HBsAg-positive pregnant women are not identified⁴

Michigan:

- 400-592 infants born to HBsAg-positive women should be identified annually⁴
- 300 infants born to HBsAg-positive women reported annually⁵

Prevention

Prenatal care providers need to:

- Test every pregnant woman during every pregnancy for HBsAg
- Inform pregnant women of HBsAg status
- Send copy of HBsAg test result for this pregnancy to delivery hospital

If the patient is HBsAg-positive:

- Report results to local health department (LHD) within 24 hours
- Counsel and provide or refer for medical evaluation and case management

If the patient is HBsAg-negative:

- Assess risk for HBV infection
- Counsel and provide transmission and prevention education
- Vaccinate if high risk
- Retest during last trimester if high risk

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) FAQs for the Public, July 2008 <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/HBVfaq.htm#overview>

² A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of HBV Infection in the U.S., December 2006
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5516.pdf>

³ Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Case Management, November 2007 <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/SurveillanceGuidelines.htm>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Point Estimates

⁵ Michigan's Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program Annual CDC Report