

Question 7 – September 16

A nine-month old is brought to see you because mom has been found to be Hep C positive (antibody and PCR), but HIV negative. The baby has a positive HCV antibody. The parents want to know her prognosis.

What is the chance that she will be chronically infected?

- A. 5%
- B. 95%
- C. 50%
- D. 70%
- E. <1%

Answer: A

An infant born to a mom with HCV has a 5% chance of chronic infection. Maternal Ab persists in the infant until 15-18 months, causing a false-positive test result. The baby should undergo Ab and PCR testing at 18 months.

Reference:

1. EA Roberts. Maternal-infant transmission of hepatitis C virus infection Hepatology. 2002 Nov;36(5 Suppl 1):S106-13