

Question 17 – November 24

A 29 year old female is pregnant with her first child. On prenatal screening she is found to be Hep BsAg positive. What do you recommend to the mother to protect the newborn from acquiring the Hepatitis at birth?

- A. No specific therapy the risk of transmission is low
- B. Treat the mom now with antiviral therapy
- C. Treat the mom now and administer Hepatitis B vaccine to the newborn
- D. Treat the newborn with Hepatitis B immunoglobulin and vaccination at the time of birth

Answer: D

Newborns of mothers who are Hepatitis BsAg positive require both Hepatitis B immunoglobulin and vaccination at the time of delivery. There is no role in treating the mother prior to the birth of the child.

References:

1. Riley Caroline, Liver Disease in the Pregnant Patient. American Journal of Gastroenterology. 94;7;1999. 1728-1732

