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National CMV Foundation

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NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING & CMV

SCREENING AND EARLY DETECTION

ASK YOUR BABY'S HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT CMV SCREENING

NCHAM
National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management
Utah State University™

NATIONAL CMV FOUNDATION

WHAT IS CMV?

Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is the most common infectious cause of birth defects in the US. CMV is a common, cold-like virus that is harmless to most people. When caught by a pregnant woman, CMV can cause symptoms in the baby such as hearing loss and brain abnormalities.

MOST BABIES WITH CMV HAVE NO VISIBLE SIGNS

Babies born with CMV, known as having congenital CMV, can develop hearing loss in one or both ears. This hearing loss can worsen into adolescence.

KNOWING IF YOUR BABY HAS CMV IS IMPORTANT

Repeat hearing screening is critical to diagnose and treat early hearing loss, especially in babies with CMV.

"My baby looked normal at birth. We later found out that she was deaf and had brain damage from CMV."

-Megan, CMV mom

CMV & HEARING LOSS

CMV IS COMMON

1 in every 200 babies is born with CMV. It is one of the leading causes of hearing loss and developmental disabilities.

WHEN SHOULD WE SCREEN FOR CMV?

Babies should be tested for CMV in the first 21 days of life. After 21 days it is harder for doctors to know if CMV was present at birth. CMV caught after birth is generally harmless.

HOW DO WE SCREEN FOR CMV?

CMV is tested for in baby's urine or saliva. Testing is painless and is covered by most insurance plans. For babies older than 21 days, in some states, testing can be done using leftover blood from the newborn metabolic screening (heel poke test).

WHAT IF MY BABY TESTS POSITIVE?

If positive, your healthcare provider will talk to you about next steps. This may include seeing a specialist to learn about treatment. Your baby's hearing and development will be monitored closely. Most babies with CMV do very well.