

Press Release
November 29, 2004

Hardy Releases New Product for the Detection of Group B Strep Bacteria in Pregnant Women

The Disease: Group B Strep causes over 20,000 cases of infant meningitis, sepsis (blood infection), and pneumonia each year. About 10% of these cases will result in death.

The Group B Strep bacteria are carried by the mother in the vaginal and rectal area and can infect the baby upon birth. About 25% of all pregnant women will be carriers of Group B Strep. The mother is usually without symptoms and there is no way of knowing if the mother is infected without laboratory testing.

Detection: The detection of the organism is important in order to begin treatment of the mother with antibiotics prior to childbirth.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta) requires that all pregnant women be tested for the presence of Group B Strep during the 35th to 37th week of gestation. This infection can be easily and successfully treated with penicillin during labor.

New Hardy Product: Hardy Diagnostics had recently released a new product that is used for the detection of Group B Strep in pregnant women. It is called Carrot Broth and is a unique product that can produce relatively quick results using a simple color change in a test tube. Due to the unique and innovative nature of this test method, a patent request has recently been filed at the US Patent Office.

Gary Peterson, a microbiologist, who has worked at Hardy Diagnostics for over two years, formulated the idea for this new product. Peterson is a licensed Clinical laboratory Scientist who has worked in hospital laboratories for about 30 years, most recently at French Hospital in San Luis Obispo.

The Carrot Broth system is inoculated with a swab from the pregnant female. Within 6 to 24 hours an orange color will appear in the Carrot Broth tube if the Group B Strep bacteria is present. The advantage of the Hardy Carrot Broth is that it produces an easy to read bright color change and has a long shelf life.

Hardy Diagnostics has great hopes of this product becoming the standard for prenatal testing, and being included in the CDC recommendations. The market potential for this product is great, since there will be about four million births in the US this year. The product was tested in 11 different hospitals in various locations throughout the country. In every case Carrot Broth was shown to be more accurate than the current methods being used.



Researcher, Gary Peterson, in the lab at Hardy Diagnostics. Peterson is the inventor of this new patented product to detect Group B Strep, known as Carrot Broth



Carrot Broth, showing a negative and positive (orange color) result for the presence of Group B Strep bacteria.

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See this CDC web page for more information about Group B Streptococcus.
http://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/gbs/gen_public_faq.htm.

For further information, please contact Jay Hardy at Hardy Diagnostics (805) 346-2766,
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