



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Streptococcal Infections

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/streptococcalinfections.html>

# Streptococcal Infections

**Also called:** Strep

Strep is short for Streptococcus, a type of bacteria. There are several types. Two of them cause most of the strep infections in people: group A and group B.


Group A strep causes:

- Strep throat - a sore, red throat. Your tonsils [<https://medlineplus.gov/tonsillitis.html>] may be swollen and have white spots on them.
- Scarlet fever - an illness that follows strep throat. It causes a red rash on the body.
- Impetigo [<https://medlineplus.gov/impetigo.html>] - a skin infection
- Toxic shock syndrome
- Cellulitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/cellulitis.html>] and necrotizing fasciitis (flesh-eating disease)



Group B strep can cause blood infections, pneumonia and meningitis in newborns. A screening test during pregnancy can tell if you have it. If you do, intravenous (IV) antibiotics during labor can save your baby's life. Adults can also get group B strep infections, especially if they are 65 or older or already have health problems. Strep B can cause urinary tract infections, blood infections, skin infections and pneumonia in adults.

Antibiotics are used to treat strep infections.

## Start Here

- Group A Streptococcal Infections [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/group-streptococcal-infections>]  (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Strep Throat in Kids and Teens [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/strep-throat.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/strep-throat.html>]


## Diagnosis and Tests

- Strep A Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/strep-a-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-estreptococos-a/>]
- Strep B Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/strep-b-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-estreptococos-del-grupo-b/>]
- Strep Test: Rapid (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/test-rapid-strep.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/test-rapid-strep.html>]
- Strep Test: Throat Culture (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/labtest11.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/labtest11.html>]

# Prevention and Risk Factors

- Preventing Group B Strep Disease in Newborns [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-b-strep/prevention/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-b-strep/es/risk-factors/factores-de-riesgo-de-la-enfermedad-por-estreptococos-del-grupo-b.html>]

## Related Issues

- About Scarlet Fever [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/about/scarlet-fever.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/es/about/sintomas-de-la-escarlatina.html>]
- Glomerulonephritis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/glomerulonephritis/symptoms-causes/syc-20355705?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Glomerulonephritis (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/glomerulonephritis.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/glomerulonephritis.html>]
- Sydenham Chorea [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/sydenham-chorea>]  
 (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)



## Specifics

- About Necrotizing Fasciitis [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/about/necrotizing-fasciitis.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/es/about/acerca-de-la-fascitis-necrosante.html>]
- About Strep Throat [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/about/strep-throat.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/es/about/acerca-de-la-infeccion-de-garganta-por-estreptococos.html>]
- Toxic Shock Syndrome (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/toxic-shock.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/toxic-shock.html>]

## Statistics and Research

- Group B Strep Surveillance and Trends [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-b-strep/php/surveillance/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

## Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Rheumatic Fever [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Rheumatic+Fever%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Streptococcal Infections [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Streptococcal+Infections%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles



References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Hyperglycemia enhances group B Streptococcus pathogenicity by impairing TLR2 expression and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40746553>]
- Article: Wastewater Surveillance for Group A Streptococcus pyogenes in a Small City. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40732705>]
- Article: An analysis of the vaginal microbiota in women positive for group... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40713506>]
- Streptococcal Infections -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Streptococcal+Infections%22%5Bmajr%3AAnoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

## Find an Expert

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [<https://www.cdc.gov/>]  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>]
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>] 

## Children

- Group A Strep Infections (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/group-a-strep.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/group-a-strep.html>]
- PANS (Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome) and PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections): Questions and Answers [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/pandas>]  
 (National Institute of Mental Health)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/espanol/pandas-preguntas-y-respuestas>]
- Recurring Strep Throat: When Is Tonsillectomy Useful? [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/strep-throat/expert-answers/recurring-strep-throat/FAQ-20058360?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/strep-throat/expert-answers/recurring-strep-throat/faq-20058360?p=1>]
- Rheumatic Fever [<https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/rheumatic-fever>] (American Heart Association)
- Scarlet Fever [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/scarlet-fever/?lmiw9cApI>] (VisualDX)
- Scarlet Fever (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/scarlet-fever.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/scarlet-fever.html>]
- Sepsis [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/sepsis.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/sepsis-es.html>]
- Strep Throat (For Kids) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/strep-throat.html>]  (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/strep-throat.html>]

## Teenagers

- Toxic Shock Syndrome (For Teens) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/tss.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/tss.html>]

## Women

- Group B Strep Infection [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/group-b-strep-infection/?adfree=true>]  
(American Academy of Family Physicians)  
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/infeccion-por-estreptococo-del-grupo-b-es/?adfree=true>]

## Patient Handouts

- Ecthyma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000864.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000864.htm>]
- Erysipelas [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000618.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000618.htm>]
- Group B streptococcal septicemia of the newborn [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001366.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001366.htm>]
- Group B streptococcus - pregnancy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000511.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000511.htm>]
- Perianal streptococcal cellulitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001346.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001346.htm>]
- Rheumatic fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003940.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003940.htm>]

Scarlet fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000974.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000974.htm>]

- Strep throat [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000639.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000639.htm>]
- Streptococcal screen [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003745.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003745.htm>]
- Throat swab culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003746.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003746.htm>]
- Toxic shock syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000653.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000653.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Anti-DNase B blood test [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003537.htm>]

Antistreptolysin O titer [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003522.htm>]

Ecthyma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000864.htm>]

Erysipelas [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000618.htm>]

Group B streptococcal septicemia of the newborn [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001366.htm>]

Group B streptococcus - pregnancy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000511.htm>]

Necrotizing soft tissue infection [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001443.htm>]

Perianal streptococcal cellulitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001346.htm>]

Poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis (GN) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000503.htm>]

Rheumatic fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003940.htm>]

Scarlet fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000974.htm>]

Strep throat [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000639.htm>]

Streptococcal screen [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003745.htm>]

Sydenham chorea [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001358.htm>]

Throat swab culture [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003746.htm>]

Toxic shock syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000653.htm>]

Related Health Topics

- Cellulitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/cellulitis.html>]
- Impetigo [<https://medlineplus.gov/impetigo.html>]
- Pneumococcal Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/pneumococcalinfections.html>]
- Tonsillitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/tonsillitis.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Streptococcal Infections* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

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