

NEWBORN SCREENING BC

Blood spot card screening | Parent information sheet

Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)



What is newborn blood spot screening?

This is a simple blood test that is done shortly after a baby is born to test for conditions that could affect your child's health. A baby is tested at birth because it is important to start treatment early for best health outcomes.

There may be no signs of these conditions at birth. It is important to remember that many treatable conditions can not be seen by looking at your baby.

What is SCID?

Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) is a condition that affects a baby's immune system, and makes it hard to fight against infections, or germs.

Why does my baby have to take more tests for SCID?

It is normal that babies may need to have more tests, but it doesn't mean that your baby has SCID. More testing is needed to find out if they do or do not have SCID. You will be referred to medical specialists who are there to support you and your baby through the tests.

What health problems can occur if a baby has SCID?

At birth, babies with SCID usually look healthy. If SCID is not treated, some signs that start to appear include severe and repeated infections, diarrhea, and rashes. Early treatment can greatly improve the health of children with this condition.

How can SCID be treated?

There are many options for treating SCID. If your child is diagnosed with SCID, your child's immunology doctor can explain to you which treatment may be best for your child's needs. They will also talk to you about ways to help prevent infections.

What can I do to support my baby now?

While your child is being tested for SCID, follow these steps:

- Wash hands regularly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds or with alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before touching the baby, before and after changing diapers, after going to the bathroom, before preparing food and after sneezing or coughing
- No visitors to the home, beyond the people who live there
- Do not take your baby out of the house to any enclosed public places like church, shopping, or daycare
- Keep other children, pets, and anyone who is sick, even with a cold, away from your baby
- Keep home clean by wiping surfaces with disinfectant (ex: Lysol)
- Ask your doctor before anyone in the household gets a live viral or live bacterial vaccination
- If your baby is in the hospital and needs any blood products (example: a blood transfusion), tell the doctor that it should be "donor-irradiated and CMV negative"

What if I have more questions?

Be careful when searching for information on the internet as many websites are outdated and unreliable. We recommend speaking to your doctor or visiting:

www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/our-services/screening-programs/newborn-screening-program

www.babysfirsttest.org

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