

Easy B Facts

If 100 Infants Were Infected with HBV

- 100 Newborns → Infected at Birth
- 10 Newborns → Recover After a Brief Infection
- 90 Newborns → Develop a Chronic Long-Term Infection
- 18 Newborns → Eventually Die from Liver Disease

If 100 infants were infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV):

- Only 10 of the 100 newborns born to mothers infected with HBV would develop a short-lived or acute infection. Their immune systems would be able to fight off and clear the infection within a few weeks.
- About 90 out of the 100 newborns would not be able to clear the virus from their bodies, and they would develop a serious, potentially life-long HBV infection (Chronic HBV). In most, many years and decades would pass before HBV infection made their livers very sick from inflammation and scarring. ***However, immediately giving the baby HBIG (hepatitis B immune globulin) and the first infant hepatitis B vaccine will reduce the chronic infection rate to 10%. Giving women with high viral loads antivirals during pregnancy will also reduce mother-to-child infection rates.***
- Of the 90 newborns who develop chronic hepatitis B, about 18 would eventually die from HBV-related liver disease, such as cirrhosis or liver cancer. It usually takes many years and decades of UNTREATED HBV infection before liver damage becomes life-threatening.



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