



# Prévenir les infections périnatales à streptocoques du groupe B

*Stratégie & nouveautés*

*Pierrette Melin*

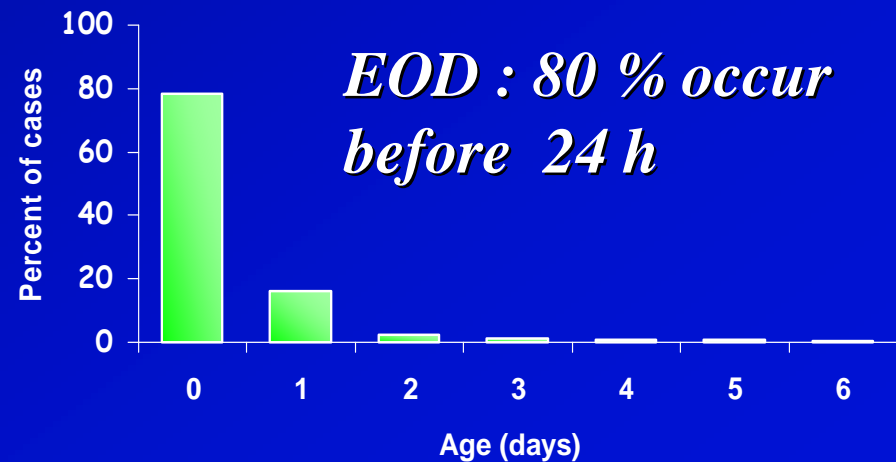
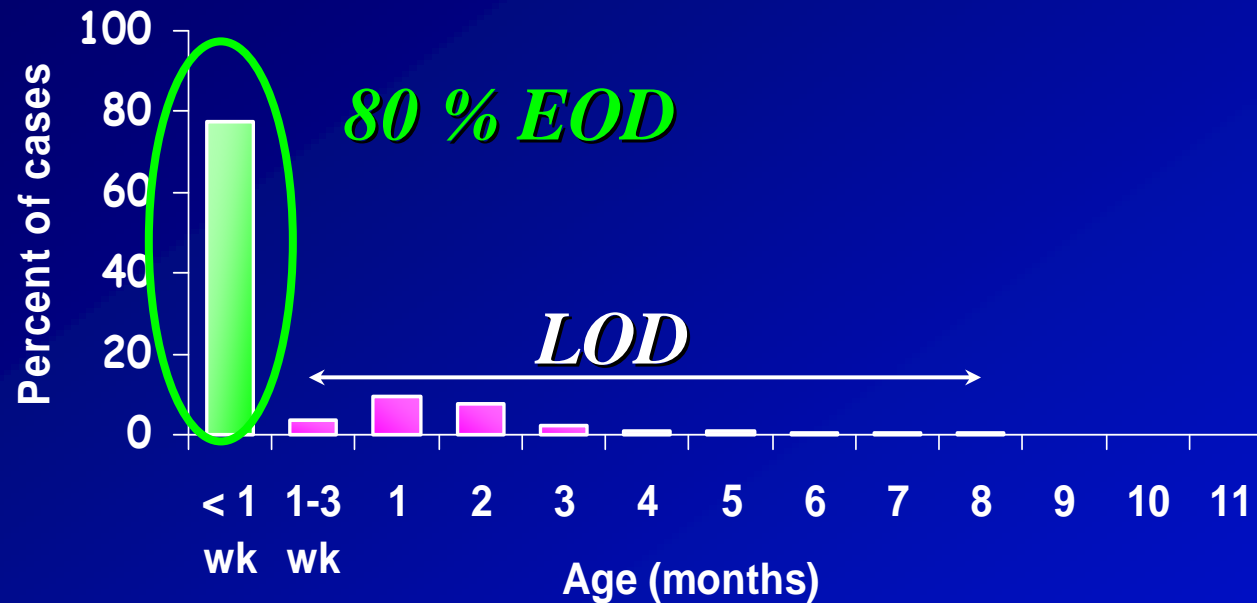
*Microbiologie médicale CHU de Liège  
Laboratoire de référence belge des GBS*

# Background

- Important pathogen since the 1970s
- Perinatal GBS disease burden
  - Neonatal illness/death, long-term disability
    - Belgium : > 300 sepsis ± meningitis /year
    - 34.8% of EOD through 1991-2005
      - (No.2 = *E.coli* : 12.5%)
  - Maternal morbidity
- Neonatal direct costs

# GBS Neonatal Infections

*A. Schuchat, Clin Microb Rev 1998;11:497-513*



**"Evidence-based"**

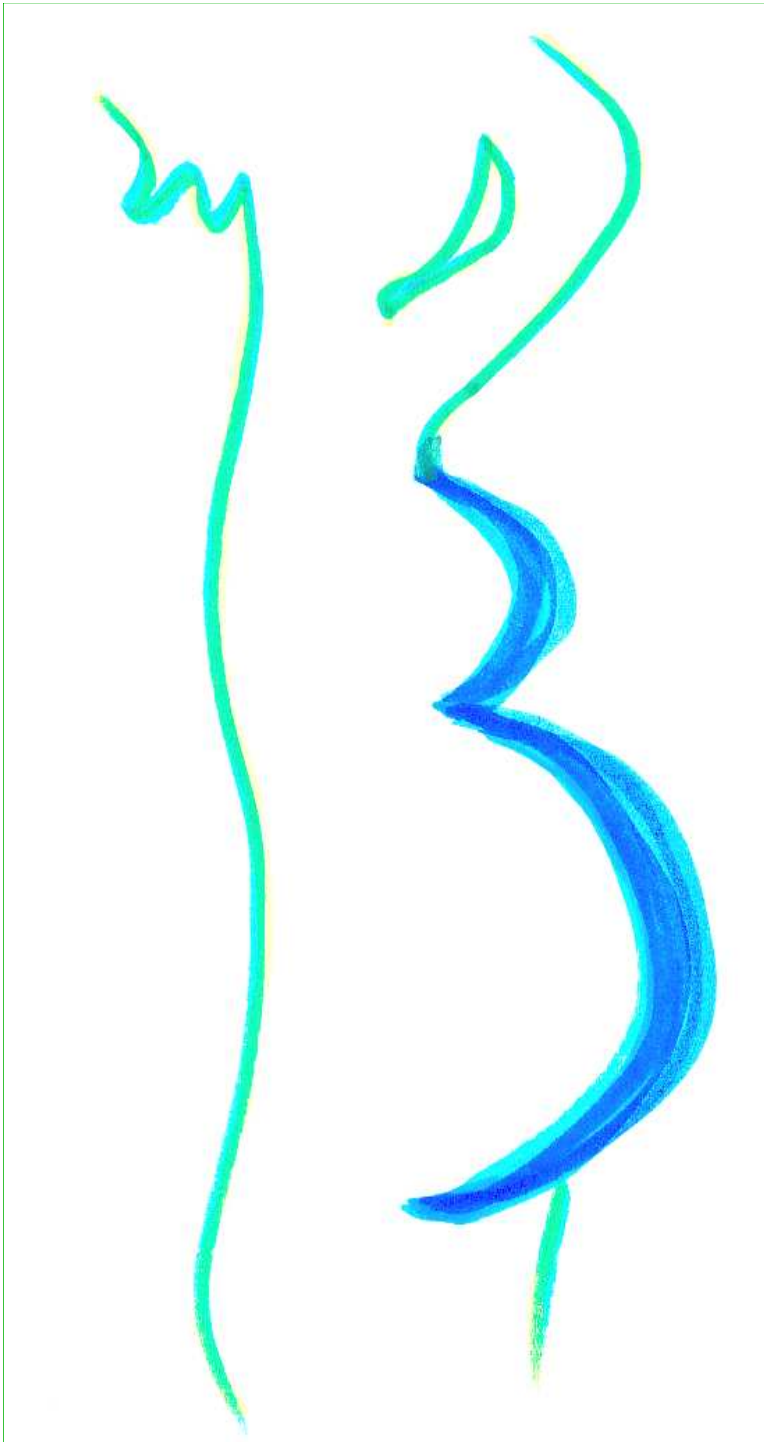
# Prevention of perinatal Group B streptococcal infections

*Guidelines from Belgian Council of Hygiene- July 2003*

[http://www.health.fgov.be/CSH\\_HGR](http://www.health.fgov.be/CSH_HGR)

## General Recommendations & Specific suggestions

|                              |                             |                         |                    |                      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>WORKING GROUP :</b>       | Gynecologists-obstetricians | <i>Alexander S.</i>     | <i>Foulon W.</i>   | <i>Melin P.</i>      |
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|                              | University/non-university   | <i>Donders G.</i>       | <i>Mahieu L.</i>   | <i>Tuerlinckx D.</i> |
|                              |                             |                         |                    | <i>Van Eldere J.</i> |

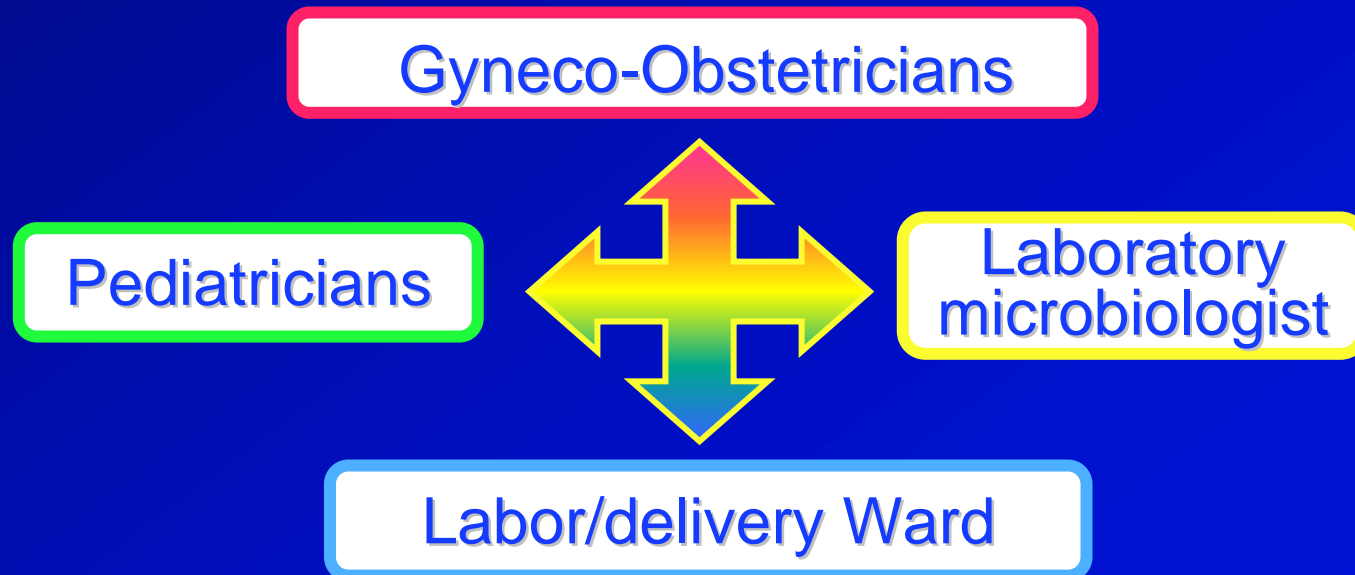


# ***PRO SCREENING***

# Intrapartum antimicrobial prophylaxis-IAP

## Universal prenatal screening at 35-37 weeks gestation

*Risk-based approach reserved for women with unknown  
GBS status at time of labor.*





Adhesion to a common protocol is a key of success  
Multidisciplinary collaboration is mandatory

## Why IAP ?

# Why a Screening-based approach ?

- Risks for GBS EOD
- Goals of IAP
- Effectiveness
- Belgian choice
- Concerns about use of prophylaxis
- Belgian results



# GBS VERTICAL TRANSMISSION

**GBS colonized mothers**

60 - 40 %

**Non-colonized newborns**

40 - 60 %

**Colonized newborns**

**Risk factors**

2 - 4 %  
**GBS EOD**



96 - 98 %  
**Asymptomatic**

**sepsis  
pneumonia  
meningitis  
long term  
disability**



# GBS maternal colonization

**Risk factor for early-onset disease  
(EOD):**

***vaginal GBS colonization at delivery***

- **GBS carriers**
  - 10 - 30 % of women
  - Clinical signs not predictive
  - Dynamic condition
  - Prenatal cultures late in pregnancy can predict delivery status

# Additional Risk Factors for Early-Onset GBS Disease

## ◆ Obstetric factors:

- ◆ Prolonged rupture of membranes,
- ◆ Preterm delivery,
- ◆ Intrapartum fever

## ◆ GBS bacteriuria

## ◆ Previous infant with GBS disease

## ◆ Immunologic:

- ◆ Low specific IgG to GBS capsular polysaccharide

*No difference in occurrence either in GBS Positive or Negative women, except intrapartum fever*

*Lorquet S., Melin P. & al.  
J Gynecol Obstet Biol Reprod 2005*



# GBS EOD - Belgian data

- Incidence

- 1985: 3/1000 live births
- 1990: 3 cases + 4 likely cases/1000 live births
- **1999, estimation : 2/1000 live births**

- Meningitis : 10 %

- Mortality > 14 %

- **60 % EOD (130 cases) : WITHOUT any maternal/obstetric risk factor**

- Prenatal screening

- Recto-vaginal cultures : 13-25 % GBS Positive

*P. Melin, 2001 - Reference laboratory for GBS.*

# Prevention of perinatal GBS EOD

- Intrapartum antibiotics
  - Highly effective at preventing EOD **in women at risk of transmitting GBS** to their newborns ( $\geq 4$  h)

## INTRAPARTUM ANTIMICROBIAL PROPHYLAXIS (IAP)

- Main goal :
  - To prevent 70 to 80 % of GBS EO cases
- Secondary :
  - To reduce peripartum maternal morbidity

How best to  
identify women  
at risk ?



CDC 1996 recommendations

« IAP »

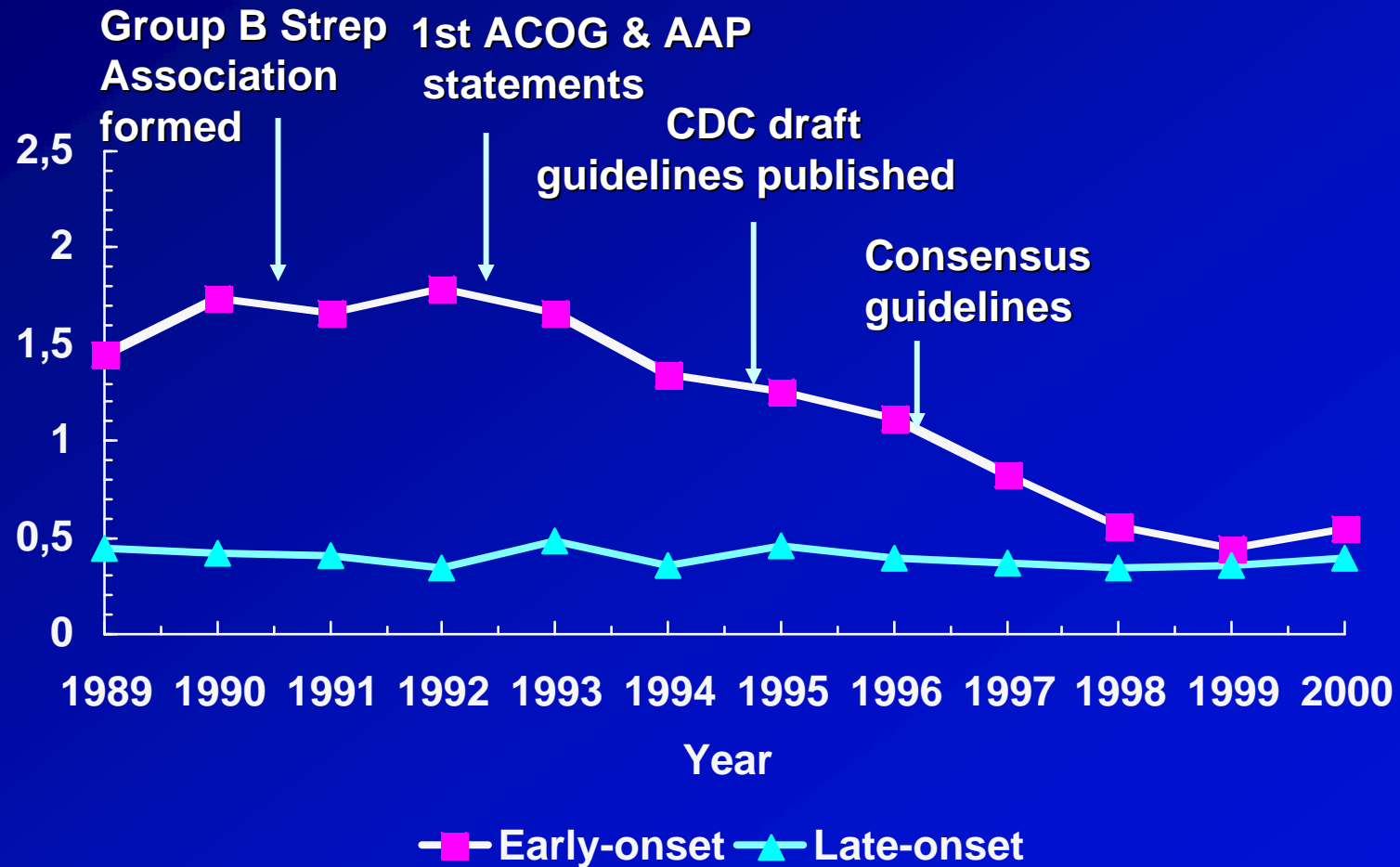
*35-37 wks Screening-based strategy*

*Or*

*Risk factors-based strategy*

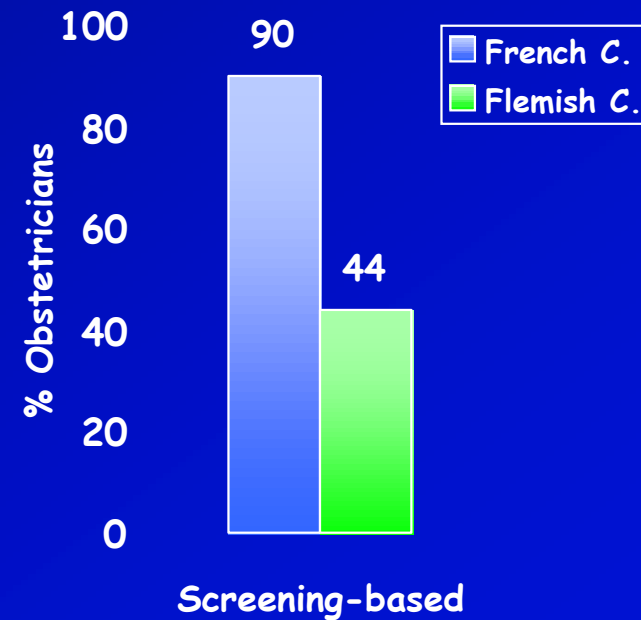
# Impact of prevention practices

## Rate of Early- and Late-onset GBS Disease in the 1990s, U.S.



*S. Schrag, New Engl J Med 2000*

# Screening for GBS or risk-factors ?



*P.Melin, 40th ICAAC, 2000*

*L.Mahieu, 2000, J Obst Gyn;5:460-4*



# Effectiveness of both CDC 1996 approaches

*Schrag S. et al. N Engl J Med 2002; 347:233-9*

**“RF” easier and cheaper than “screening” BUT**

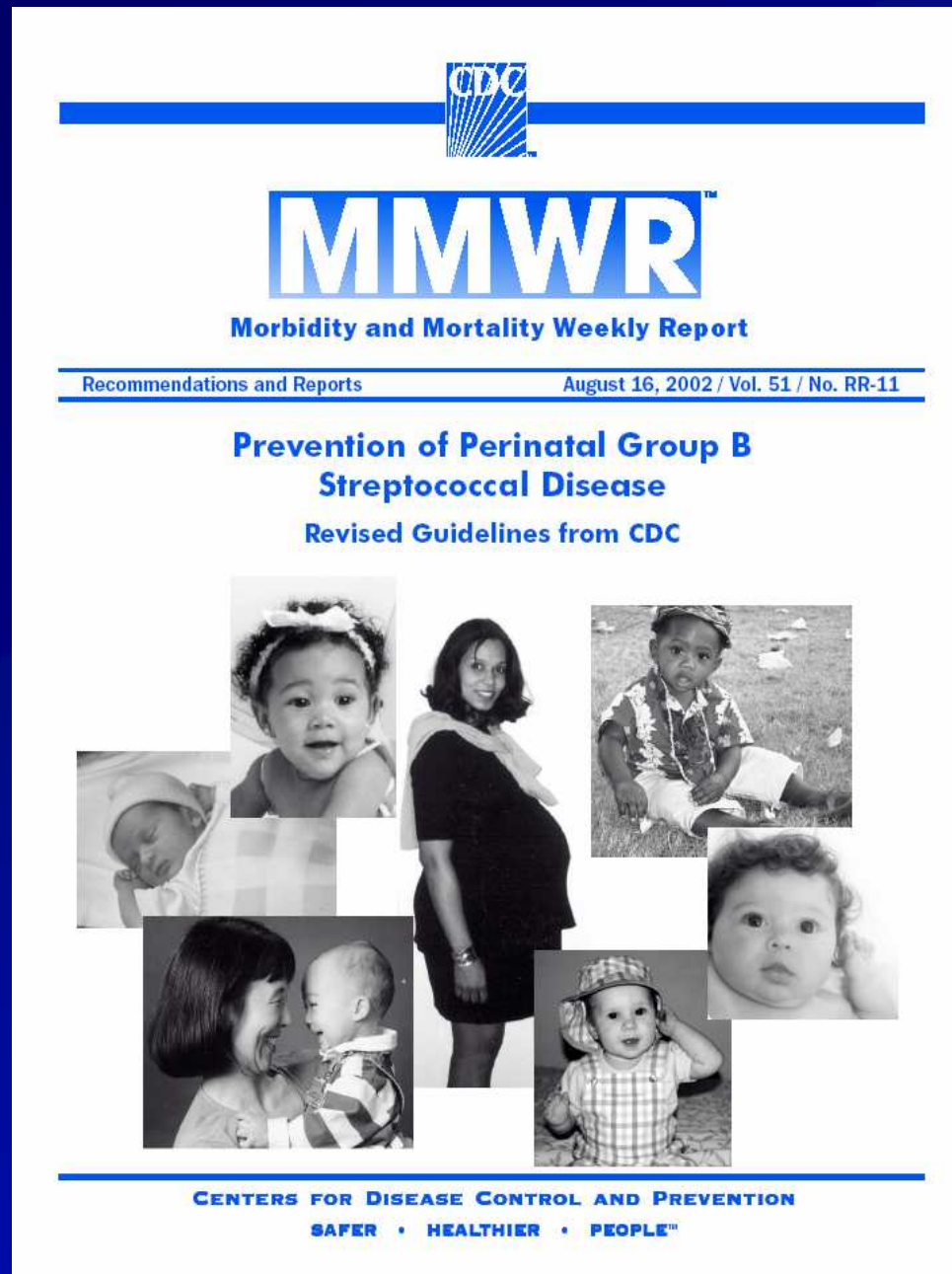
- Population-based surveillance study, U.S.
  - 312 GBS EOD ;  $\pm$  600 000 live births
    - AUDIT (5144 files): « IAP given when mandatory »
      - 52 % of all deliveries had screening
      - IAP given more often if « GBS Positive screening » than if presence of  $\geq$  1 RF

**“Screening” > 50 % more effective than “RF”**

# Why is Screening more protective than the risk-based approach ?

## Broader coverage of « at-risk » population

- Captures colonized women without obstetric RF
- High level of compliance with recommendations
- Enhanced compliance with risk-based approach cannot prevent as many cases as universal screening



# CDC

## The Recommendations

MMWR, Vol 51  
(RR-11) August 2002

*Universal prenatal  
screening  
& RF reserved for unknown  
GBS culture results*

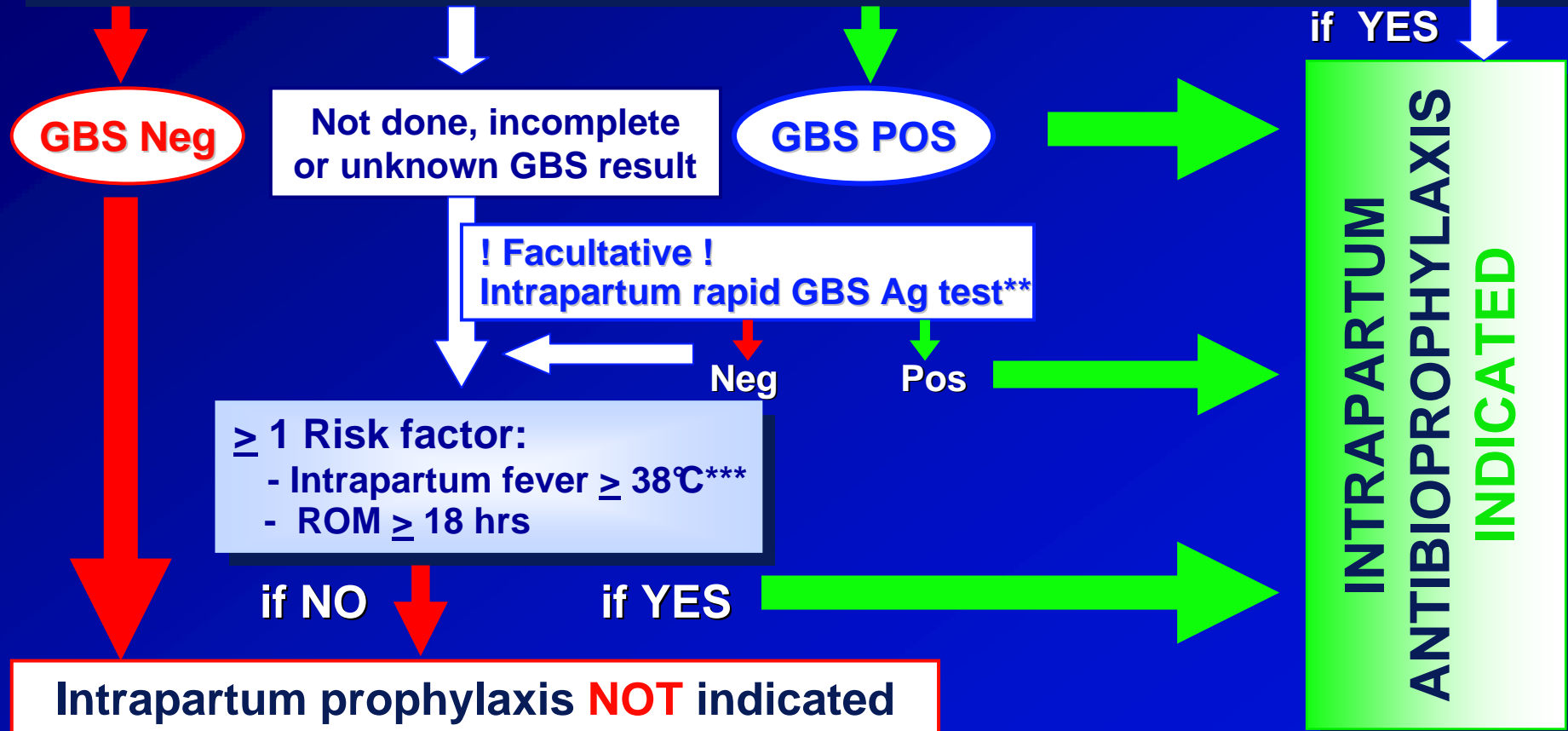
Endorsed by AAP  
and by ACOG  
in 2002

# Screening-based strategy for prevention of GBS perinatal disease (Belgian CH, 2003)

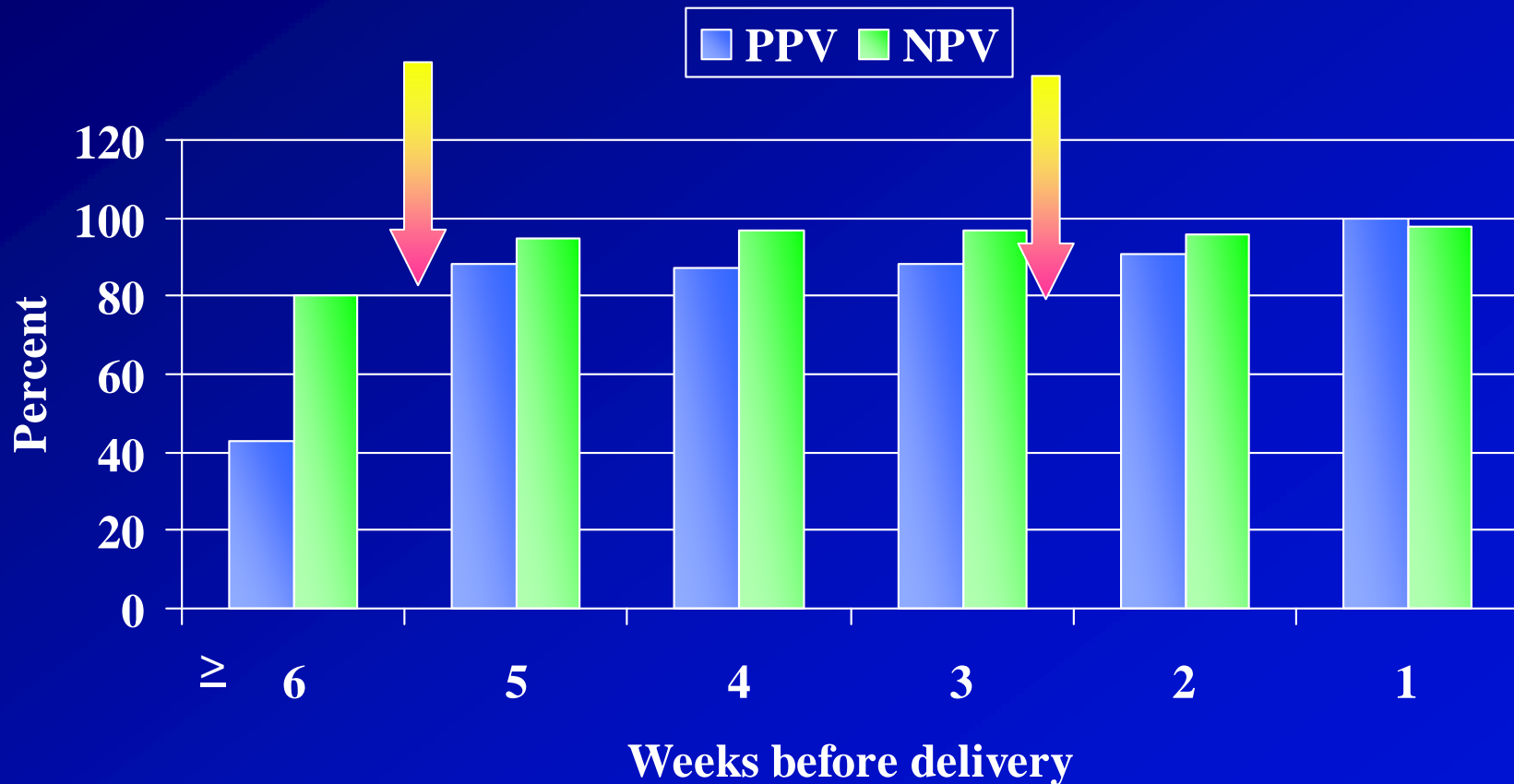
Recto-vaginal GBS screening culture at 35-37 weeks of gestation

For ALL pregnant women

Unless patient had a previous infant with GBS invasive disease or GBS bacteriuria during current pregnancy or delivery occurs < 37 weeks' gestation \*



# GBS Screening: Predictive Value of Antenatal Cultures by Interval to Delivery



N=826; 26.5% GBS carriers

Yancey et al., OB GYN 1996;88:811-5.

# Crucial conditions to optimize SCREENING

- ❖ **WHEN** 35-37 weeks
- ❖ **WHO** ALL the pregnant women
- ❖ **Specimen** Vaginal + rectal swab(s)
- ❖ **Collection** WITHOUT speculum
- ❖ **Transport** Transport/collection device  
(non nutritive medium: Amies/Stuart)
- ❖ **Request form** To specify prenatal « GBS »  
screening + *expected  
address for delivery*

*(CDC 2002 - Belgian HC 2003)*

# Prenatal GBS screening : Laboratory procedure *(Belgian HC, 2003)*

Minimum:

35-37 wks V+R



Selective enrichment broth (eg. LIM)

*Overnight, 35-37°C*



Sub-culture onto "Granada" agar

*Overnight, 35-37°C anaerobically*



Presence  
of orange  
colonies  
= GBS



Absence of  
orange  
colonies

**POSITIVE** screening

**Negative** screening

# Selective enrichment broth

Lim Broth =

Todd Hewitt broth + colistin (15  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) +  
nalidixic acid (10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )

*Overnight at 37°C and sub-cultured onto  
« Granada » (and/or BA ou BA+CNA)*



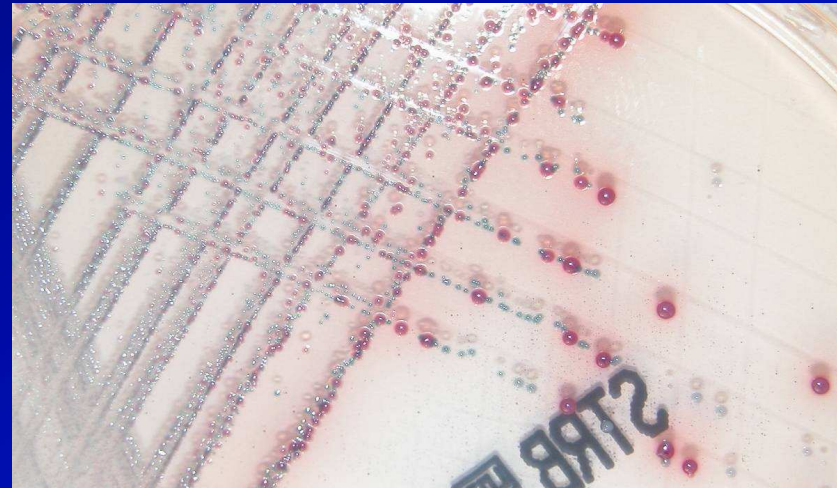
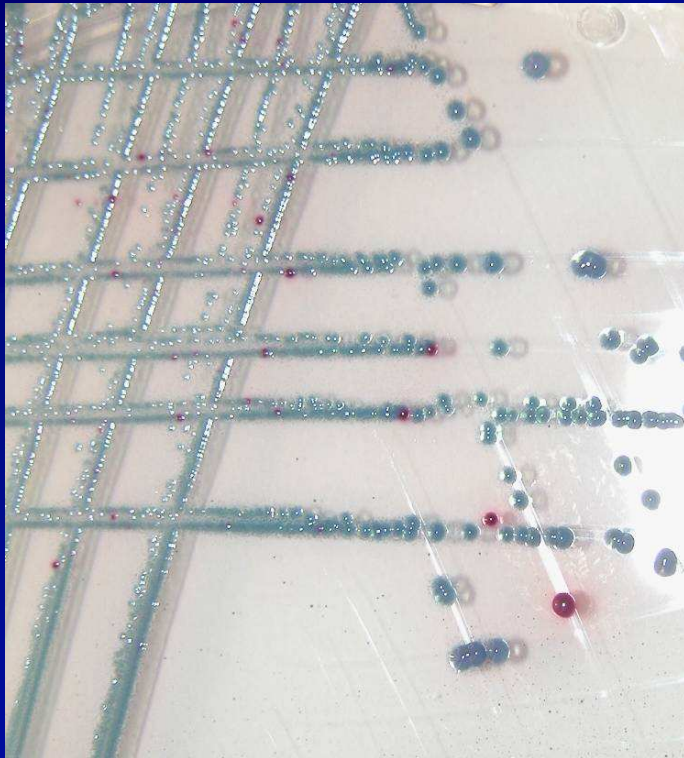
# Granada medium agar **or** BD™ Group B Streptococcus Differential Medium



Orange color:  
**Specific** for GBS  
//  $\beta$ -hemolysis



# Strepto B ID agar - BioMérieux



High sensitivity  
for growth of GBS  
GBS = pink to red colonies

**Not 100 % specific** for GBS: Id to confirm (latex)

# What to do in case of Positive GBS screening ?

- Send results to requesting doctor ***and a copy to expected site for delivery***
- DO NOT treat during pregnancy if asymptomatic
  - (*! To treat if GBS bacteriuria !*)
- To schedule IAP



# Intrapartum Antibio-Prophylaxis

*(Belgian HC 2003)*

## ■ Penicillin G

- *5 millions U, IV initial dose, then 2,5 millions U IV every 4 hours until delivery.*

## ■ Ampicilline

- *2 g IV initial dose, then 1 g IV every 4 h until delivery.*
- **Acceptable** alternative , **but** broader spectrum, potential selection of R bacteria

# Intrapartum Antibio-Prophylaxis

## If penicillin allergy *(Belgian HC 2003)*

- *Patients at low risk for anaphylaxis*
  - Cefazolin
    - 2 g IV initial dose, then 1g IV every 8 h until delivery.
- *Patients at high risk for anaphylaxis*
  - Clindamycin
    - 900 mg IV every 8 hours until delivery.
    - *If GBS resistant to clindamycin : ask for infectiologist opinion*

# Feasibility in Belgium

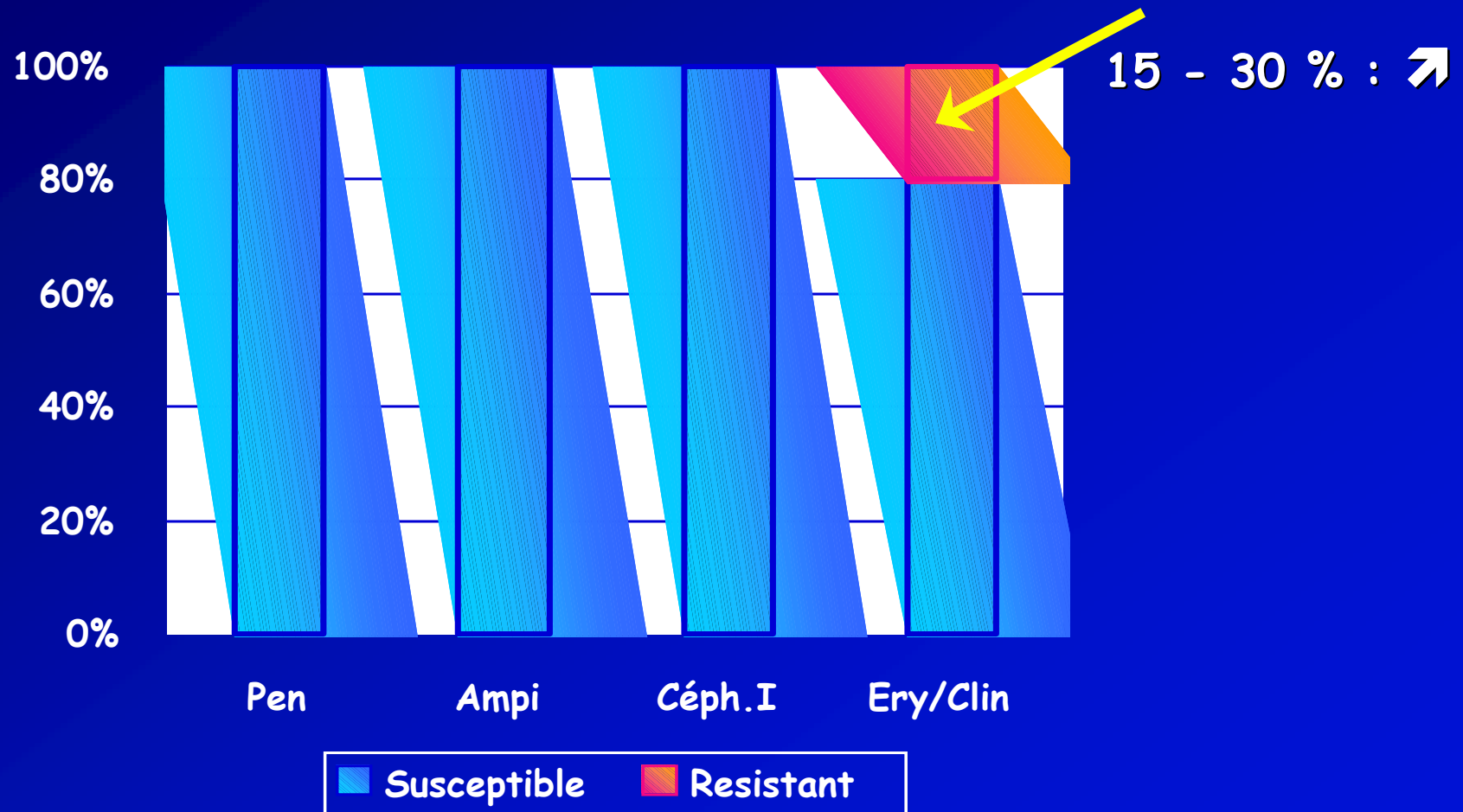
- Screening
  - Follow-up visit already scheduled around 35-37 wks gestation
  - Accessibility to laboratories
- IAP (*intra-venous*)
  - Most of deliveries occur at hospital

# Concerns about potential adverse / unintended consequences of prophylaxis

- **Allergies**
  - Anaphylaxis occurs but rarely
- **Changes in incidence or resistance of other pathogens causing EOD**
  - Data are complex ...
  - BUT Most studies: stable rates of « other » sepsis
- **Changes in GBS antimicrobial resistance profile**



# Susceptibility pattern of GBS



# Interpretation criterion *(MH with blood)* (CLSI 2006)

|                     | Zone Diameter (mm) |       |      | MIC (mg/L) |     |     |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|------|------------|-----|-----|
|                     | S                  | I     | R    | S          | I   | R   |
| <b>Penicillin</b>   | ≥ 24               | -     | -    | ≤ 0.12     | --  |     |
| <b>Erythromycin</b> | ≥ 21               | 16-20 | ≤ 15 | ≤ 0.25     | 0.5 | ≥ 1 |
| <b>Clindamycin</b>  | ≥ 19               | 16-18 | ≤ 15 | ≤ 0.25     | 0.5 | ≥ 1 |

*Phenotypes of resistance to macrolide - lincosamide : Dtest*

cMLS Erythro R & Clinda R

iMLS Erythro R & Clinda S/I/R with Dtest +

M Erythro R & Clinda S with Dtest -



# Concerns about potential adverse / unintended consequences of prophylaxis

- **Management of neonates**
  - **Increase of unnecessary evaluation**
  - **Increase of unnecessary antimicrobial treatments**

# Management of neonates at risk for GBS EOD

Rem.: 90% of GBS EOD are symptomatic < 24 h of live

Neonates born to women who received IAP  
Symptomatic NN / asymptomatic NN

*At low/at high risk*



To minimize unnecessary evaluation and antimicrobial treatment

# Management of symptomatic newborns at risk for GBS EOD

## Clinical signs of sepsis



1- Full diagnostic evaluation \*

2- Empiric antibiotherapy

(Ampicillin + aminoside)

- \*:- Full blood cell count (FBC) + differential
- CRP
- Bloodculture
- (Lumbar P.)
- Chest Xray
- Endotracheal culture (if intubated or if resp. distress. or Rx infiltrate)

Rem. ! **NOT recommended** :

- 1- Urinary GBS Ag
- 2- « Monitoring » cultures

# Management of asymptomatic newborns « *at high risk* » for GBS EOD

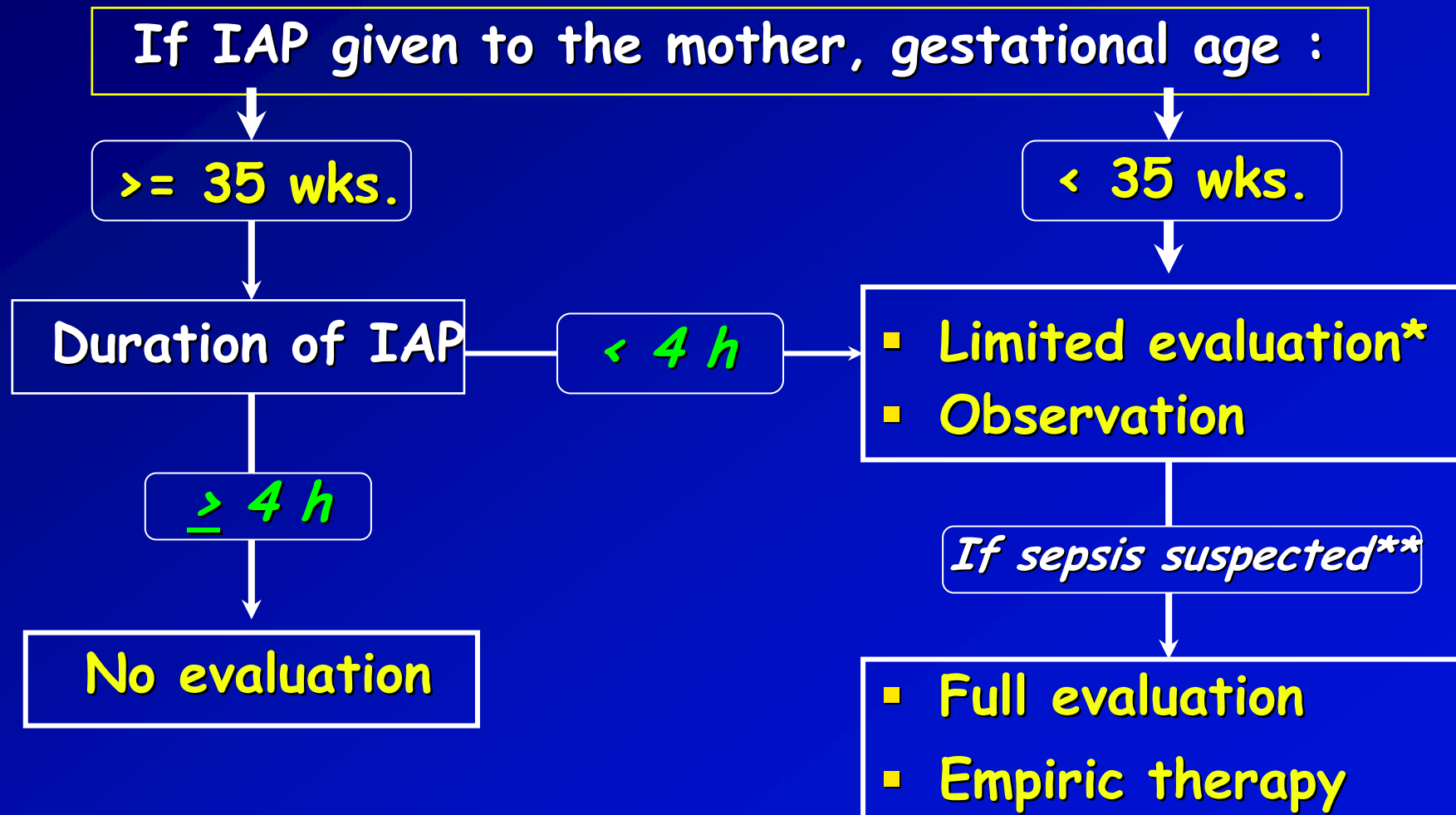
If antibiotherapy given to mother for

- Suspicion of chorioamnionitis or
- Premature AND prolonged rupture of membranes



Full evaluation  
Empiric therapy

# Management of asymptomatic newborns « *at low risk* » for GBS EOD



**Duration of antibiotherapy**

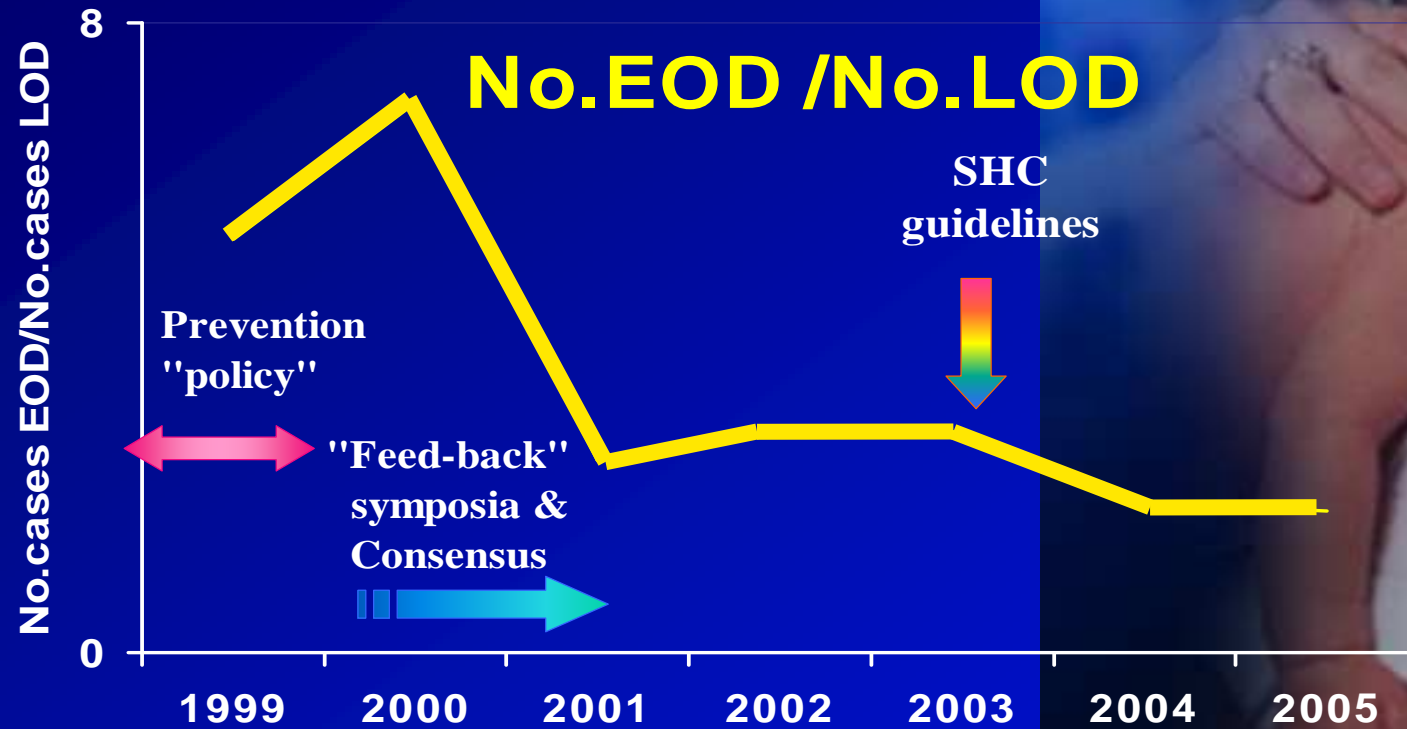
**Threatened preterm delivery**

**Planned caesarean delivery for  
GBS colonized women**



# Preventive strategies

## Current Belgian benefits



*Melin P. et al. Belgian GBS Ref.Lab, ICAAC2006, Abstract #G-0864*

# Conclusions & perspectives

## Prevention of GBS perinatal Diseases PRO-SCREENING

*Currently the best choice but NOT the ideal strategy*

Temporary, waiting for vaccines, other approach

- To implement in the daily practice
- V+R Screening method
- !! Transmission of results !!
- Epidemiological surveillance

# Alternative to prenatal GBS screening: intrapartum screening

Collect specimen at admission

Optimal  
management  
of patient



Specimen  
analysis

Results

**30 - 45 minutes**

*Benitz et al. 1999, Pediatrics, Vol 183 (6)*

# Perspectives

- Other investigated approaches
  - Real time PCR for intrapartum screening



*(GenExpert - Cepheid)*

**Belgian Challenge =  
To prevent annually > 200 cases  
of neonatal GBS EOD**



**GDLux Challenge =  
To prevent annually > 10 cases  
of neonatal GBS EOD**

# Key GBS Resources

- MMWR : August 16, 2002 / 51(RR11); 1-22
- ACOG Comm Opin 2002, N°279
  - Obstet Gynecol, 2002;100:1405-12
- CDC 's GBS Internet page
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/groupBstrep/>
- Conseil supérieur d'hygiène (*brochure strep B*)
  - [http://www.health.fgov.be/CSH\\_HGR](http://www.health.fgov.be/CSH_HGR)