



GBS SCREENING Belgium: current and future guidelines

Pierrette Melin

*National Reference Centre for GBS
Microbiology, University of Liege*

Medical Microbiology, University Hospital of Liege

INTRODUCTION & BURDEN

Streptococcus agalactiae or GBS



Gram positive cocci

Catalase -

β-hemolytic

CAMP test +

Hippurate +

Esculine-

Orange pigment

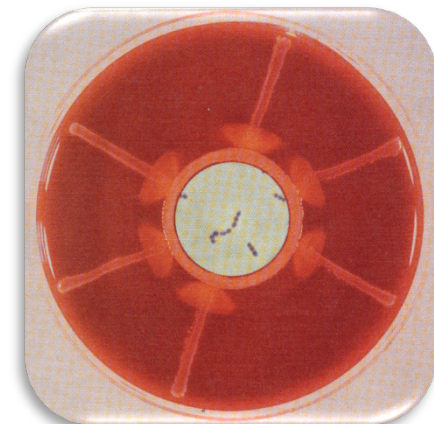
10 capsular serotypes (Ia, Ib, II-IX)

1887, Nocard-Mollereau, bovine mastitis

1933, Group B Antigen

1964, severe neonatal sepsis

➤ 1970, N°1 in neonatal infections



Group B streptococcal diseases in neonates

- **Since the 1970s, leading cause of life-threatening infections in newborns**
 - Neonatal illness/death
 - Long-term disabilities

GLOBAL public health major concern !

Also in developing countries

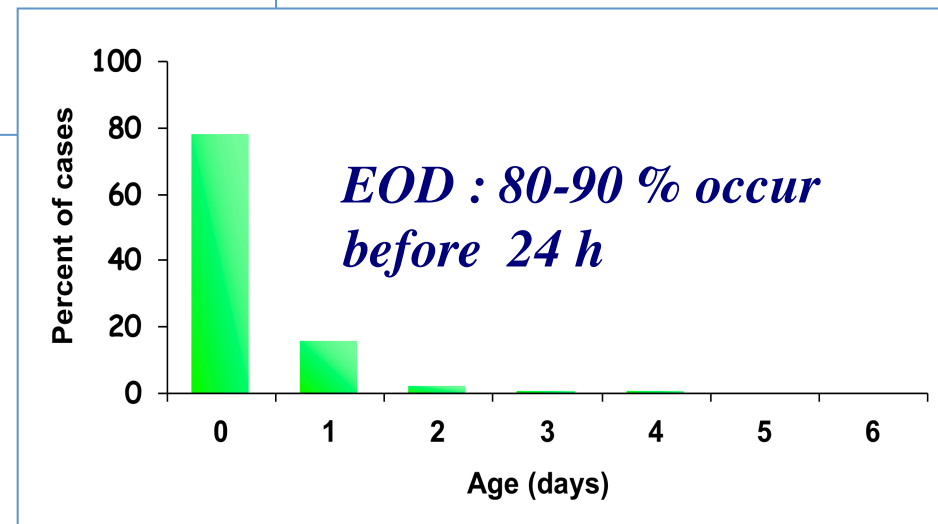
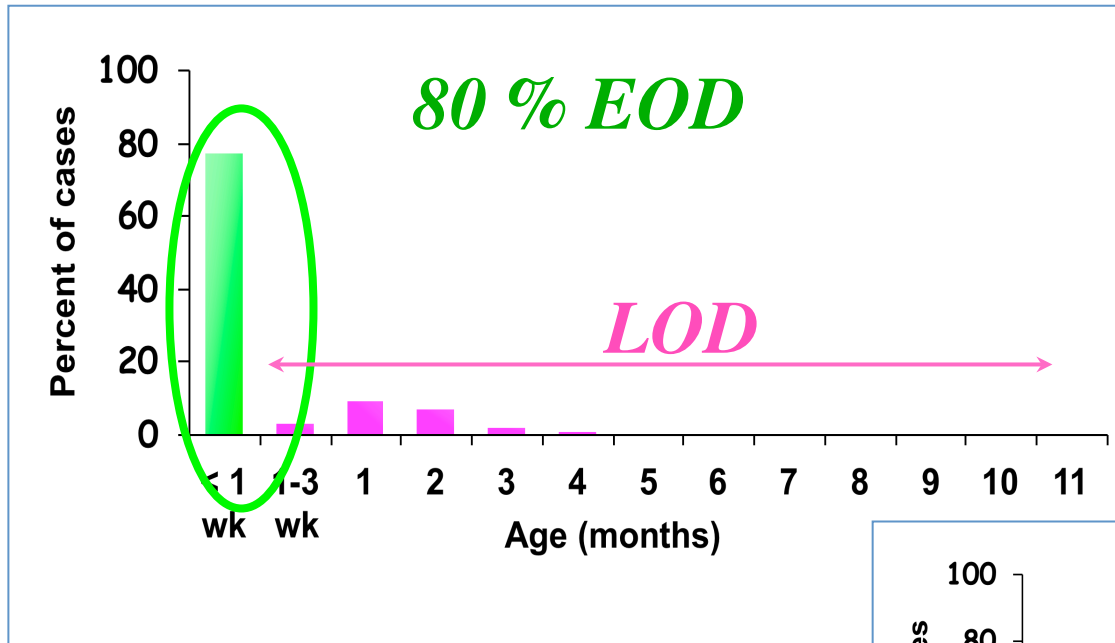
- **Maternal morbidity**
 - Along pregnancy
 - Peripartum
- **Serious diseases among elderly and adults with underlying diseases**
 - Significant mortality

GBS Neonatal Infections

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

GBS Neonatal Infections

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



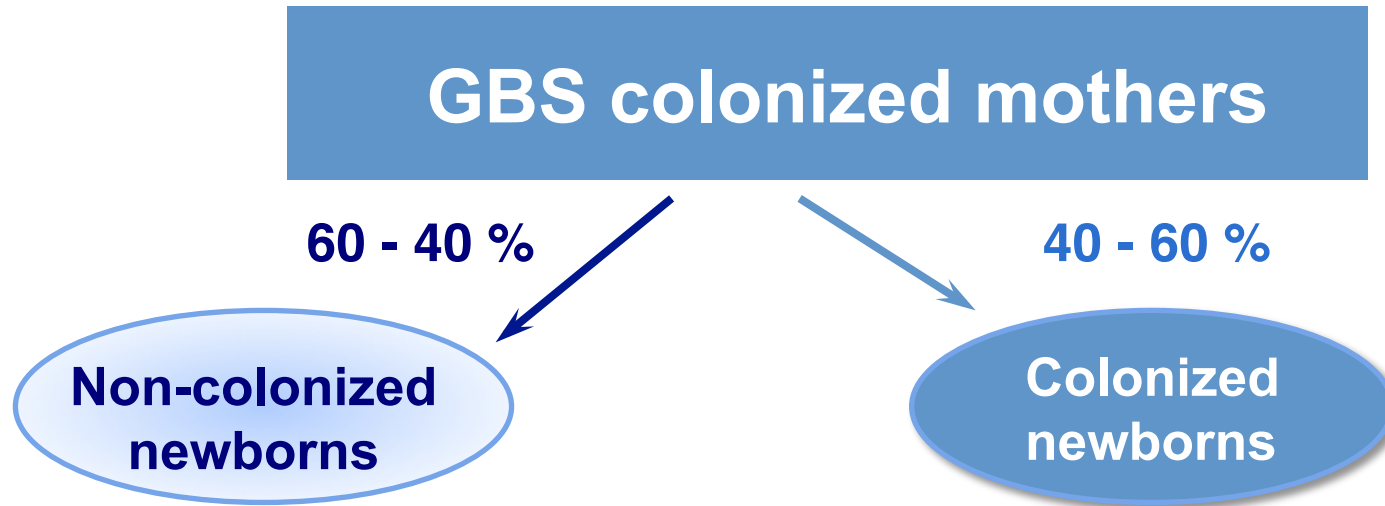
Burden of neonatal GBS early onset diseases in European countries

Location	Incidence per 1,000 live-births	Reference
Spain	2 (1996) to 0.45 (2008)	<i>Lopez Sastre et al. Acta Paediatr 2005</i>
Belgium	2	<i>Melin, Indian J Med Res 2004</i>
Eastern Europe	0.2 - 4	<i>Trijbels-Smeulders, Paediatr Infect Dis J 2004</i>
Western Europe	0.3 - 2	
The Netherlands	1.9	
Scandinavia	0.76 - 2	
Southern Europe	0.57 - 2	

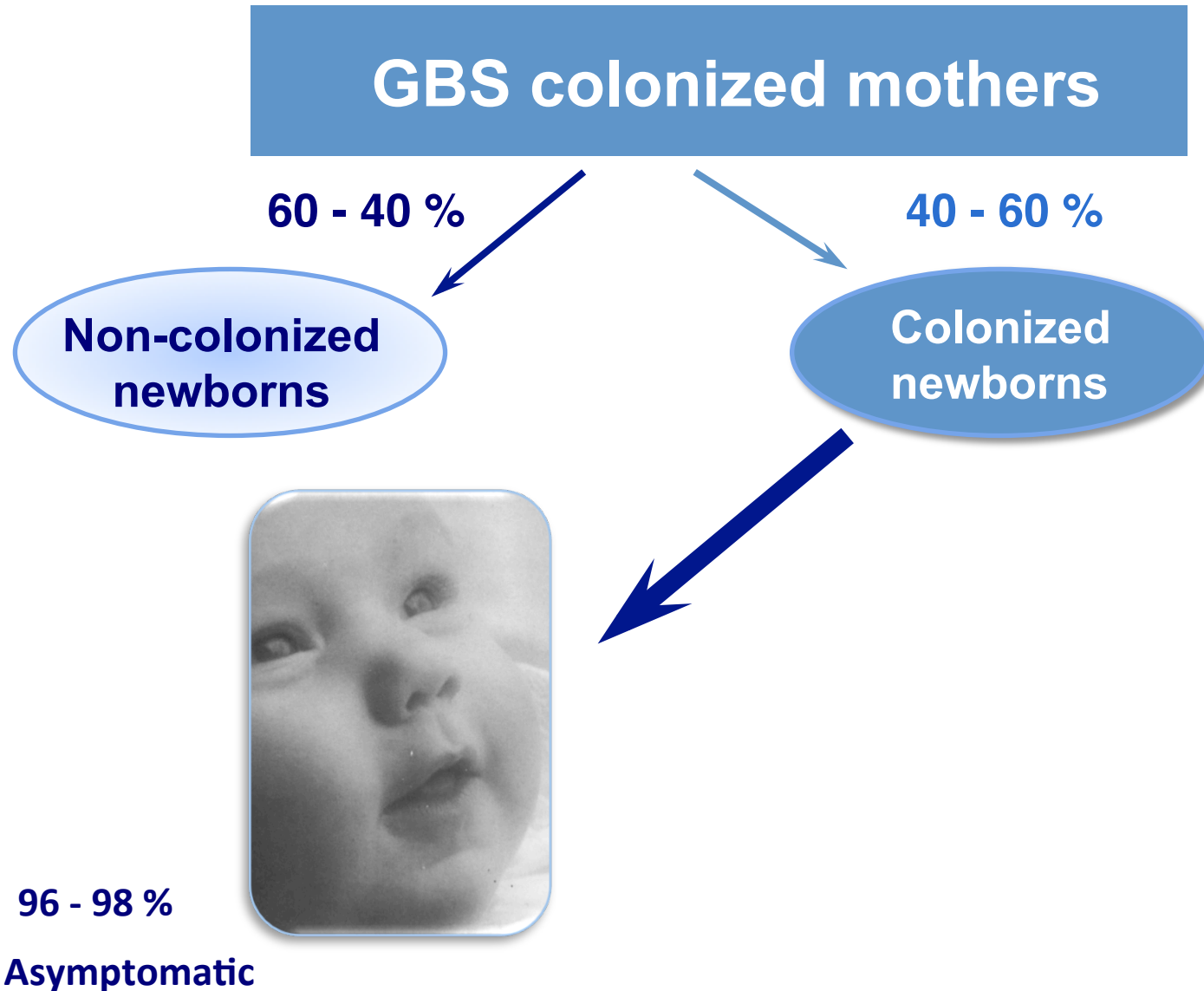
- Carriage rate ?
- Ethnicity ?
- Sub-reporting?
- Systematic diagnostic approach?
- Virulence?

Data assessing more accurately the true burden are needed

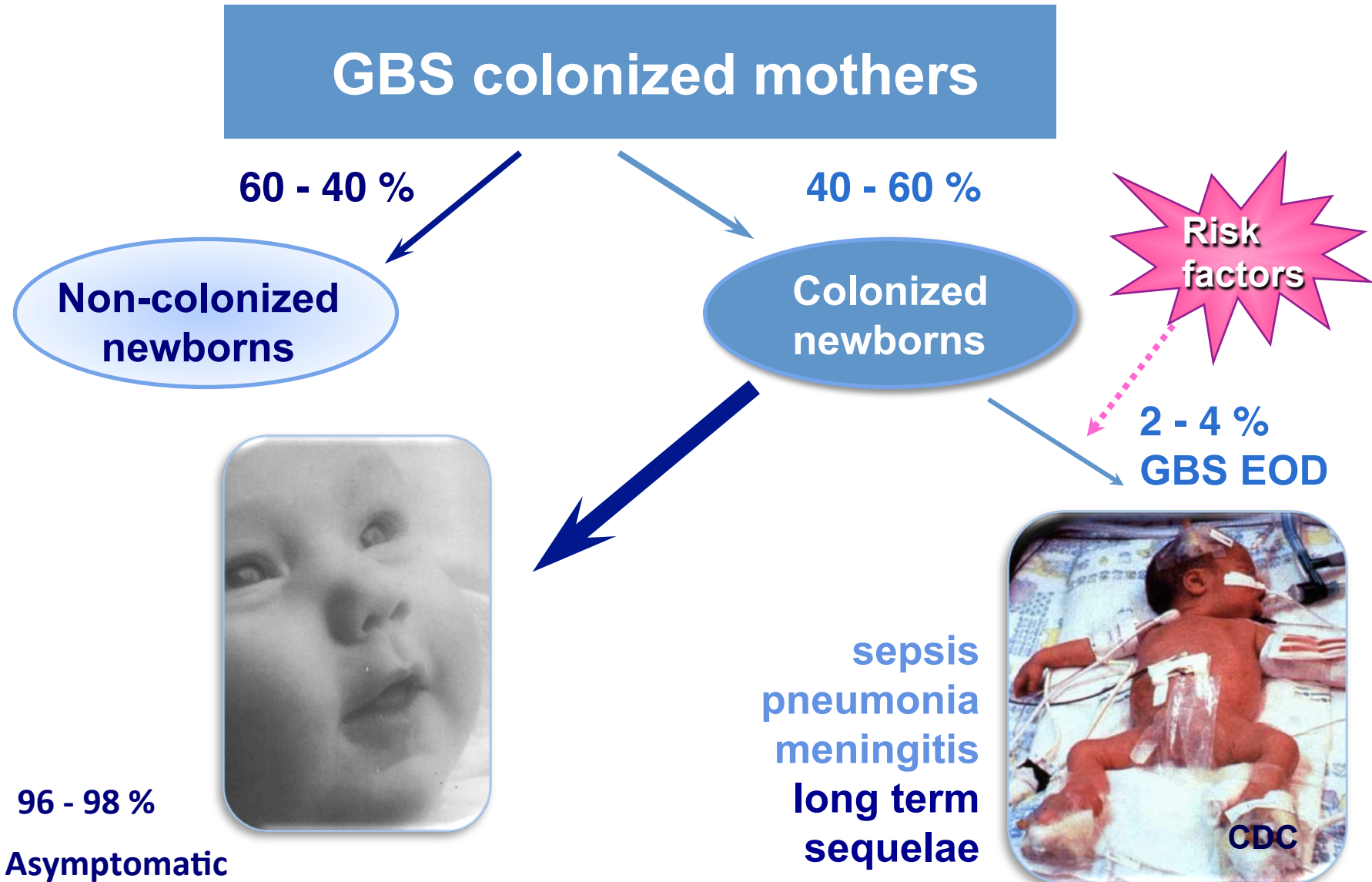
GBS EOD vertical transmission



GBS EOD vertical transmission



GBS EOD vertical transmission



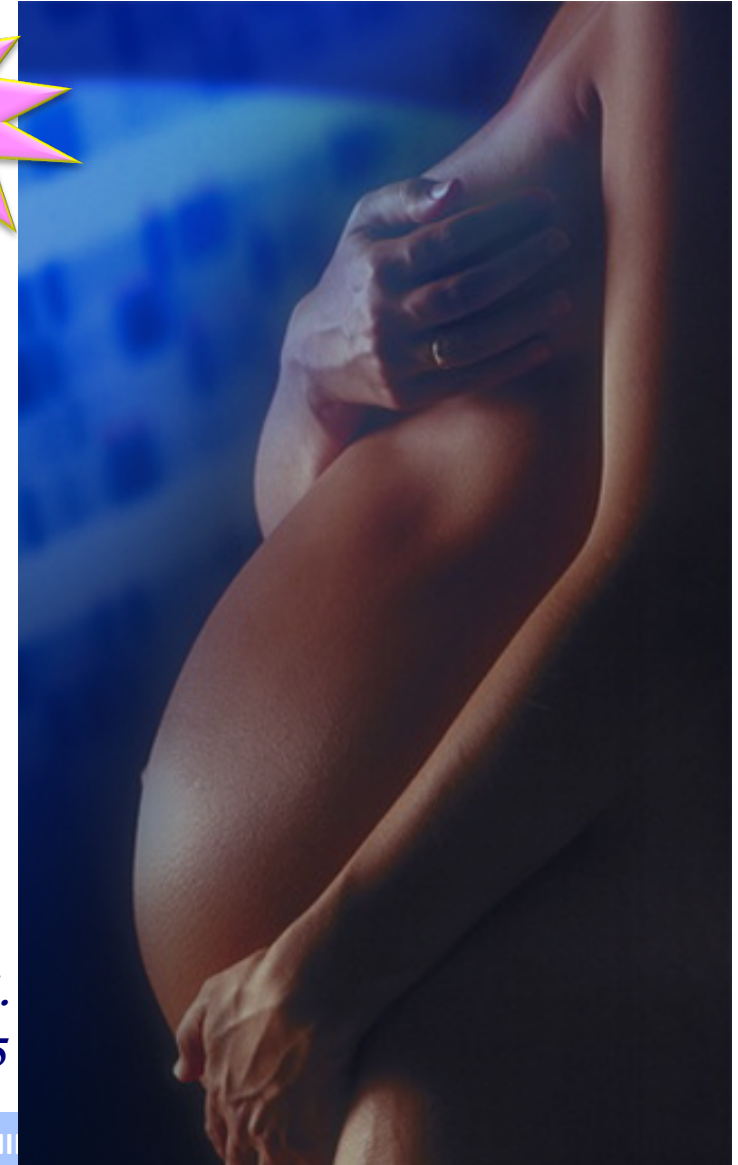
GBS maternal colonization

Risk factor for early-onset disease (EOD) :
vaginal GBS colonization at delivery

- **GBS carriers**
 - 10 - 35 % of women
 - Clinical signs not predictive
 - Dynamic condition
 - Intestinal reservoir
 - 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 -1990: 3/1000 live births
 - 1999, estimation : 2/1000 live births
 - 2010, estimation : < 1/1000 live births
- **Meningitis : 10 %**
- **Mortality : 5 -10 %**
- **60 % EOD (130 cases) : WITHOUT any maternal/obstetric risk factor except colonization**
- **Prenatal screening**
 - Recto-vaginal cultures : 13-35 % GBS Positive

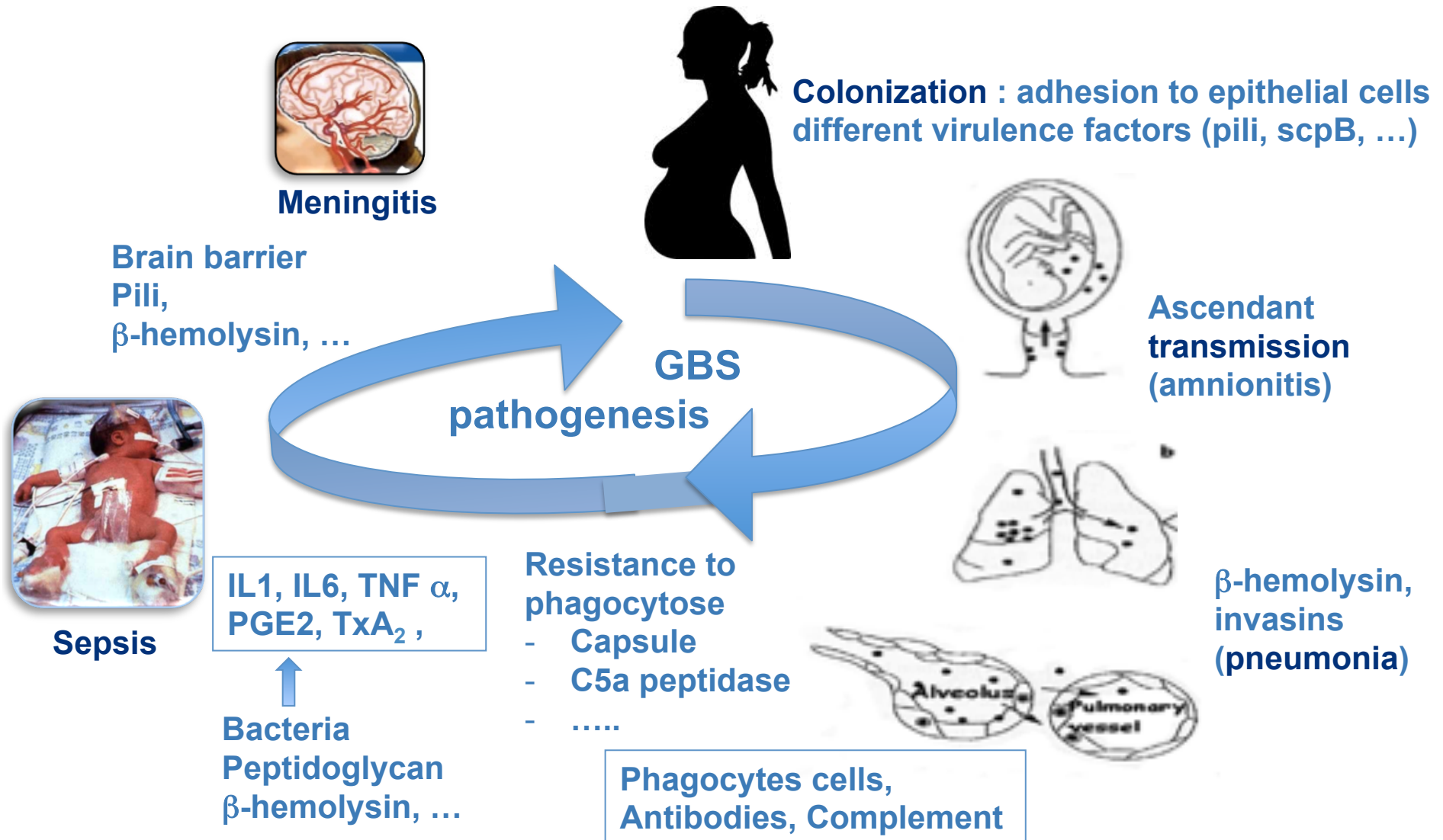
P. Melin - 2001, 2007 - Reference laboratory for GBS.

- **Universal prenatal screening-based strategy**
- **Risk-based strategy**
- **No guideline**

GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION OF GBS PERINATAL DISEASE

Stages in the pathogenesis of GBS

neonatal EOD : *Bacterial & individual factors*



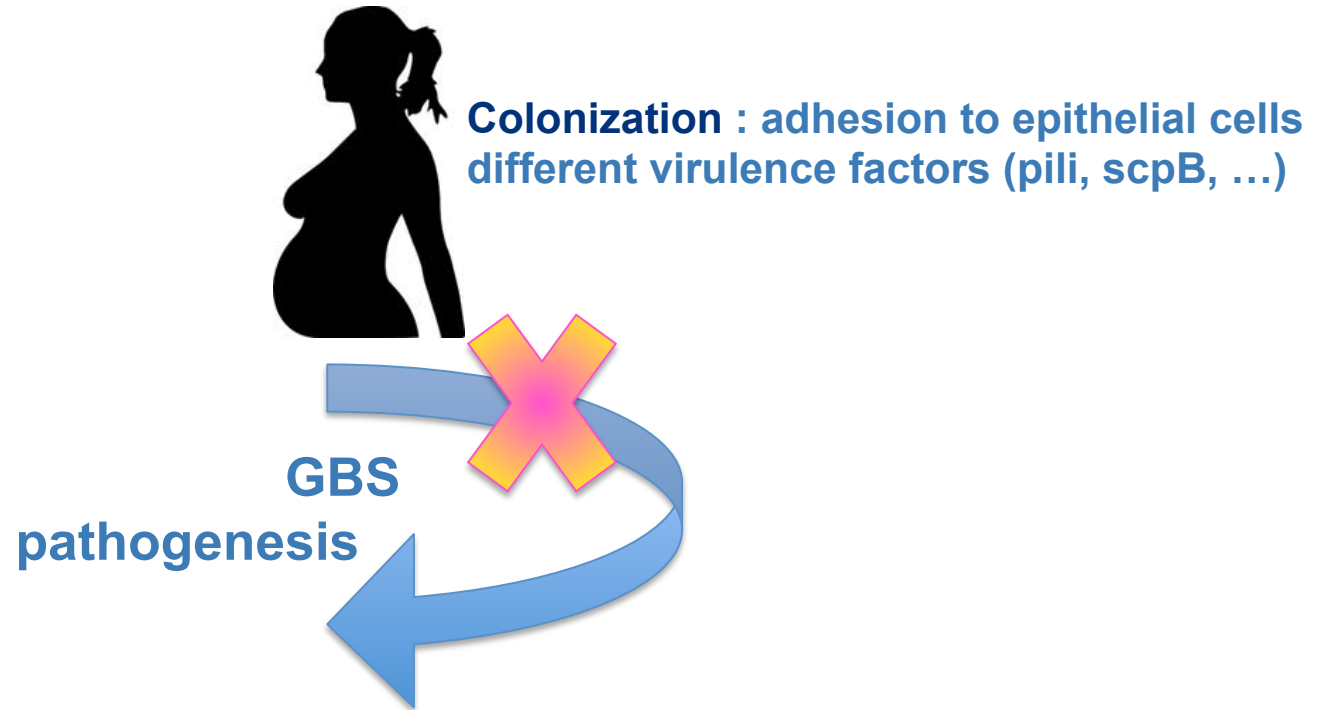


*Which prevention
strategy for GBS
perinatal
diseases ?*

- **Intrapartum
antibioprophylaxis**
- **Immunoprophylaxis**

Stages in the pathogenesis of GBS

neonatal EOD : *Bacterial & individual factors*



Intrapartum antibioprophylaxis
> 4 (2) hours before delivery

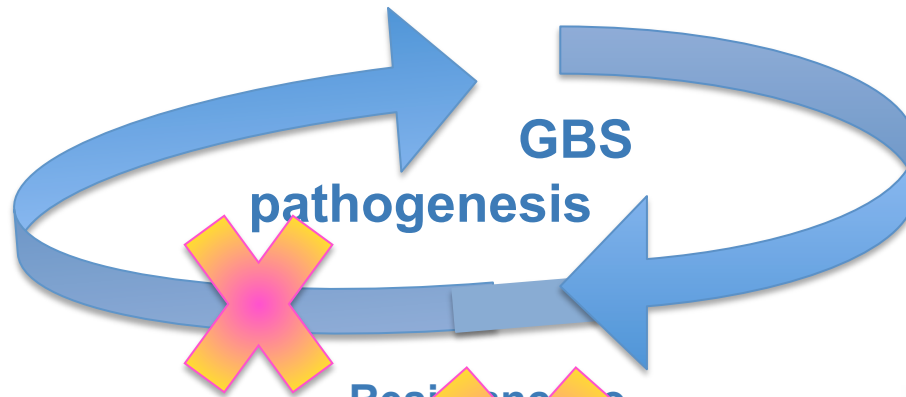
Stages in the pathogenesis of GBS

neonatal EOD : *Bacterial & individual factors*

GBS vaccine
« still expected »



Colonization : adhesion to epithelial cells
different virulence factors (pili, scpB, ...)



Ascendant transmission
(amnionitis)



β -hemolysin,
invasins
(pneumonia)



Resistance to phagocytosis
- Capsule
- Capsule
- ...

Phagocytes cells,
Antibodies, Complement

Prevention of perinatal GBS EOD

- Intrapartum antibiotics

- Highly effective at preventing EOD in women at risk of transmitting GBS to their newborns (≥ 4 h)

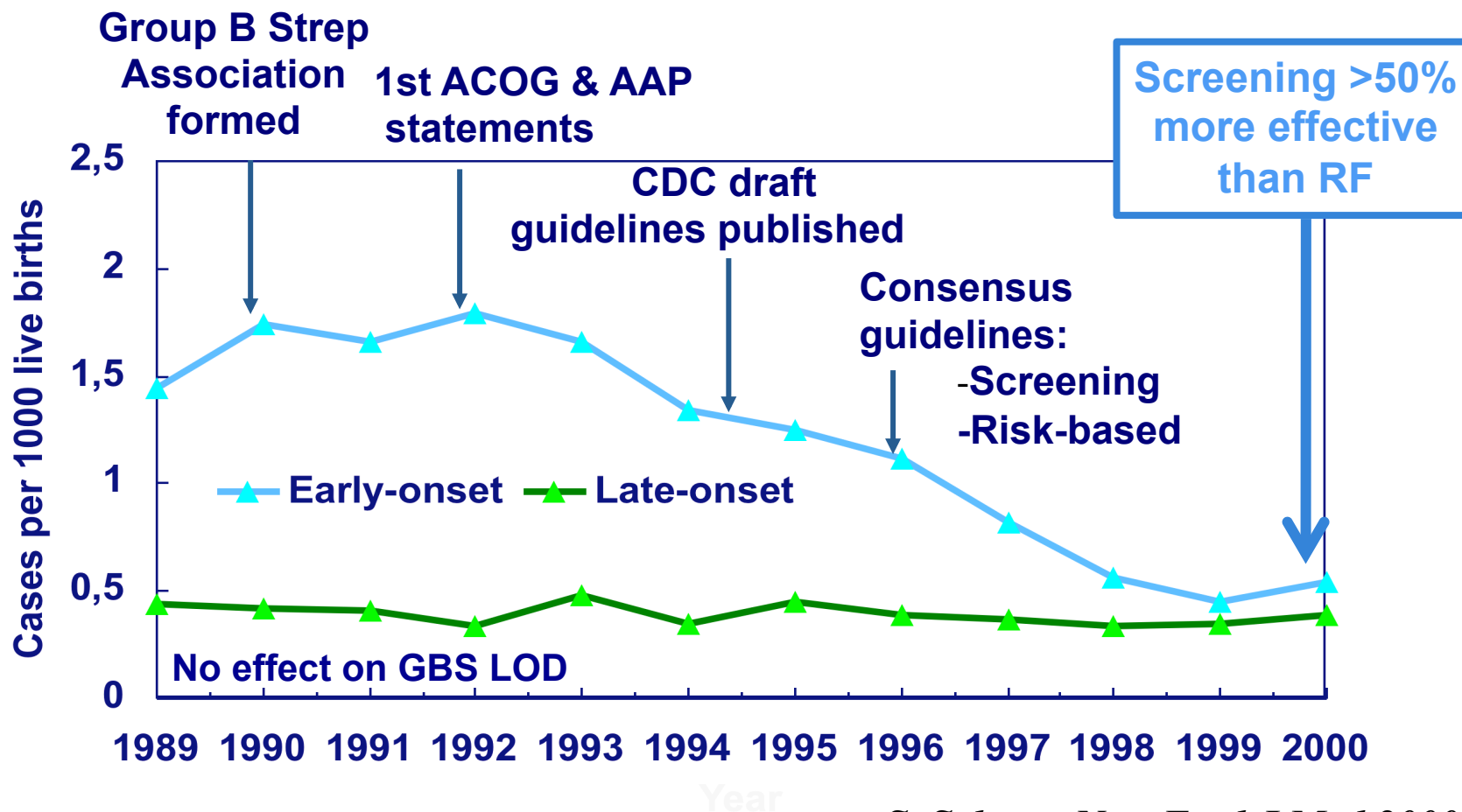
(clinical trials in late 80s)

**Risk-based strategy
or
Screening-based strategy**



Who is the women at risk ?

Impact of prevention practices Early- and Late-onset GBS Diseases in the 1990s, U.S.



S. Schrag, New Engl J Med 2000

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

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

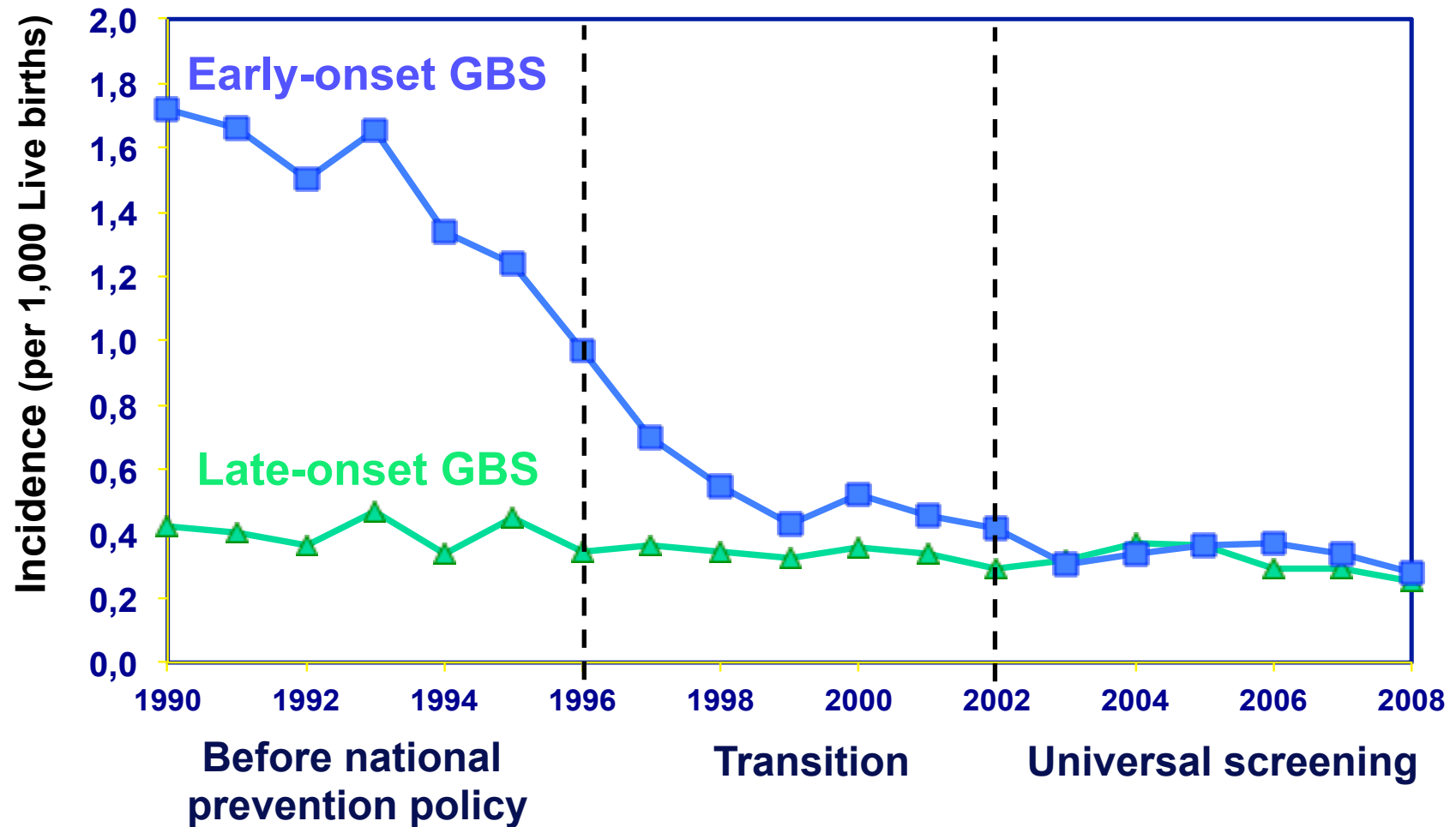
Schrag S. et al. N Engl J Med 2002; 347:233-9

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

Impact of prevention practices

Early- and Late-onset GBS Diseases, U.S.



Incidence of early- and late-onset invasive group B streptococcal disease in selective Active Bacterial Core surveillance areas, 1989-2008 (CDC 2010)



MMWR™

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

www.cdc.gov/mmwr

Recommendations and Reports

November 19, 2010 / Vol. 59 / No. RR-10

Prevention of Perinatal Group B Streptococcal Disease Revised Guidelines from CDC, 2010



Continuing Education Examination available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted.html>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC, USA, MMWR, Vol 59
(RR-10) August 2010

Endorsed by

- AAP
- ACOG

*SHC, Belgium July 2003
Revision ongoing*



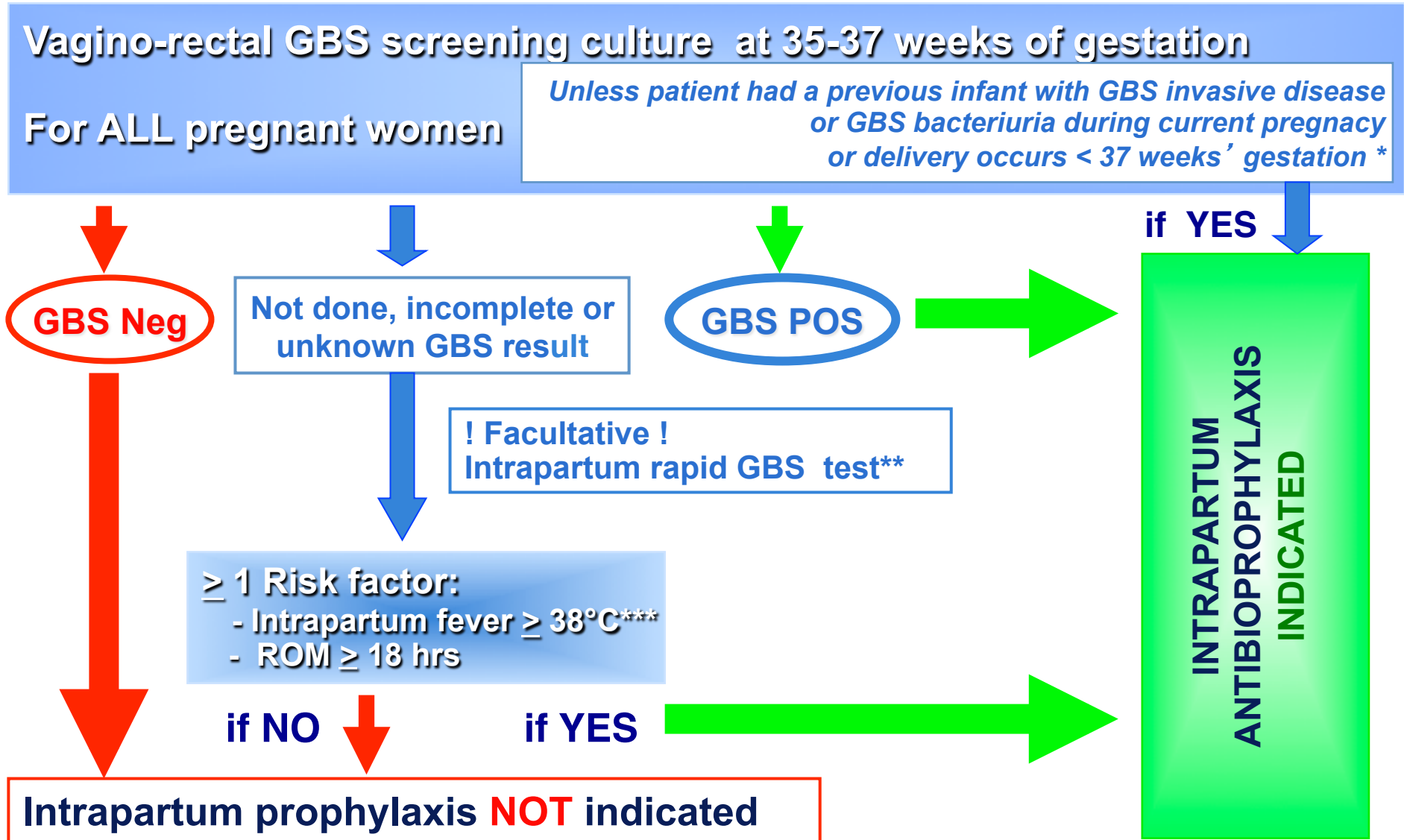
PRÉVENTION DES INFECTIONS PÉRINATALES
À STREPTOCOQUES DU GROUPE B

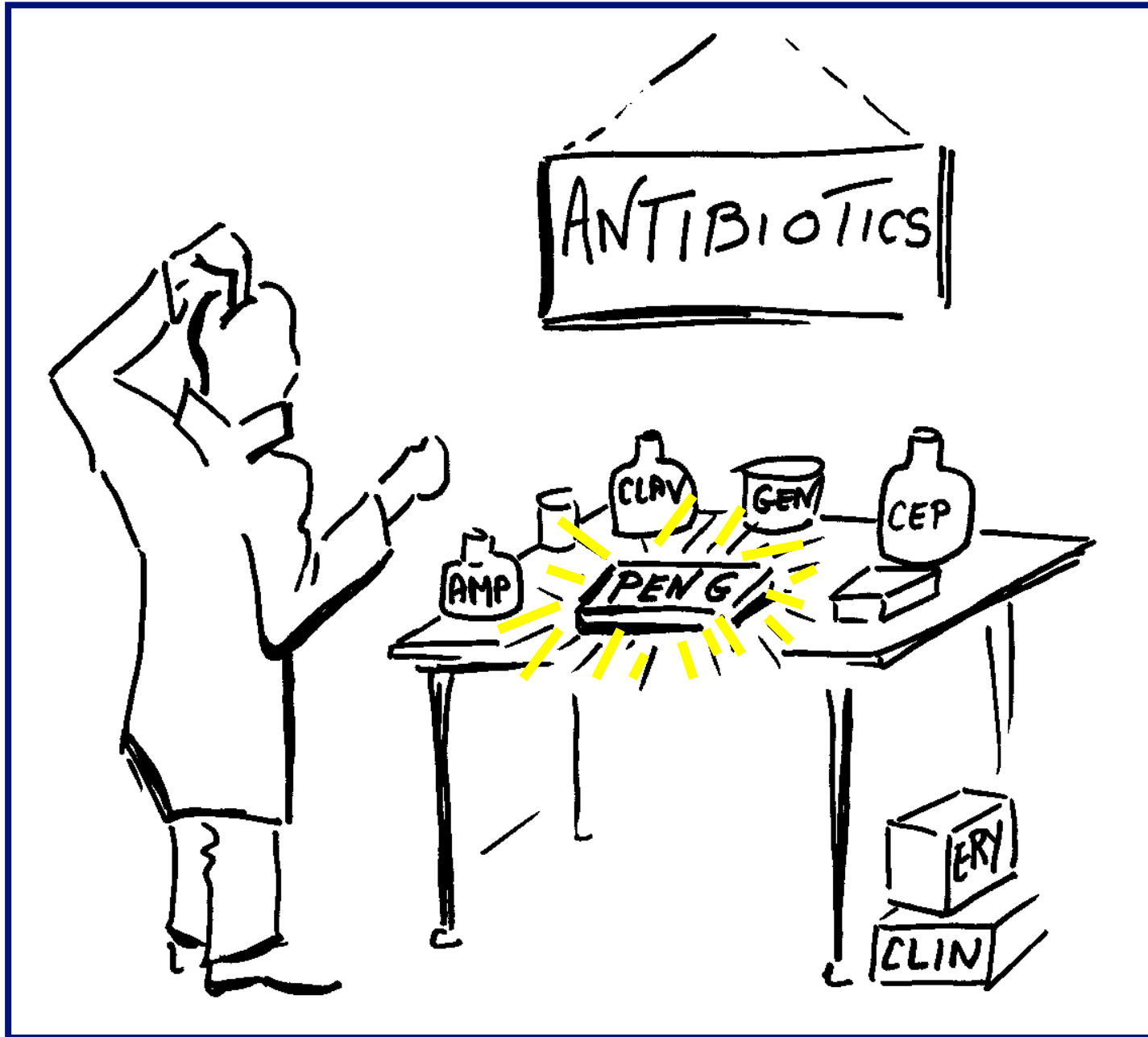
.be

European strategies for prevention of GBS EOD

- **Intrapartum antibioprophylaxis recommended**
 - **Screening-based strategy**
 - Spain, 1998, 2003, revised 2012
 - France, 2001
 - Belgium, 2003, revision ongoing 2012
 - Germany, 1996, revised 2008
 - Switzerland, 2007
 - **Risk-based strategy**
 - UK, the Netherlands, Denmark
- **No guidelines**
 - Bulgaria, ...

Universal screening-based strategy for prevention of GBS perinatal disease





Remaining burden of GBS EOD

Missed opportunities

In spite of universal screening prevention strategy

In spite the great progress

Cases still occur

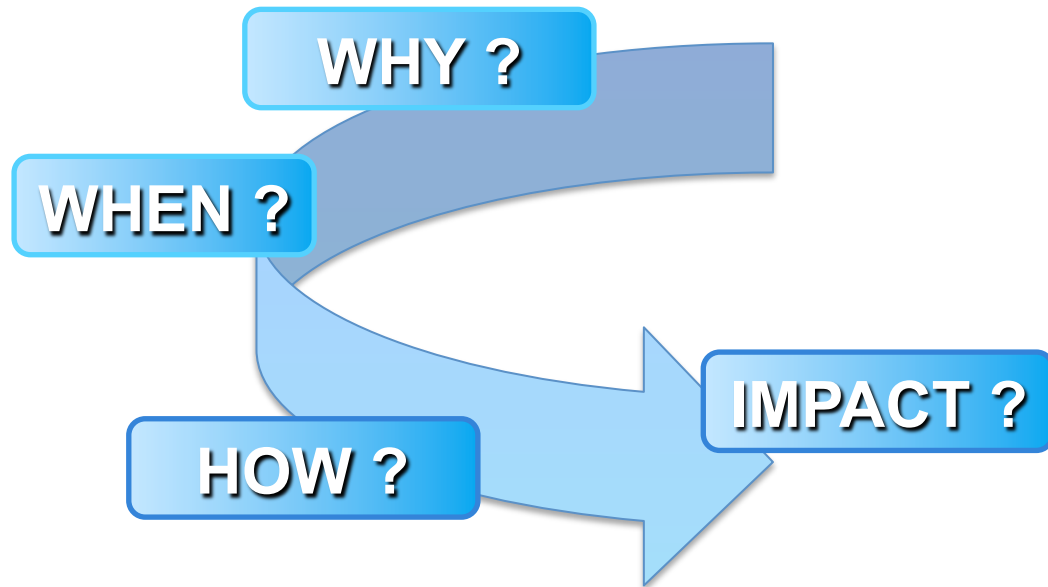
- **Among remaining cases of EOD**
 - **Some may be preventable cases**
 - **Missed opportunities for (appropriate) IAP**
 - **False negative screening**

Van Dyke MK, Phares CR, Lynfield R et al. N Engl J Med 2009

CDC revised guidelines 2010

Poyart C, Reglier-Poupet H, Tazi et al. Emerg Infect Dis 2008

DEVANI project, unpublished data 2011



SCREENING FOR GBS COLONIZATION

Antenatal GBS culture-based screening

Goal of GBS screening

To predict GBS vaginal (rectal) colonization at the time of delivery

- **Critical factors influencing accuracy**
 - **Swabbed anatomic sites**
 - **Timing of sampling**
 - **Screening methods**
 - **Culture**
 - *Procedure*
 - *Media*
 - **Non-culture**

From direct plating on blood agar

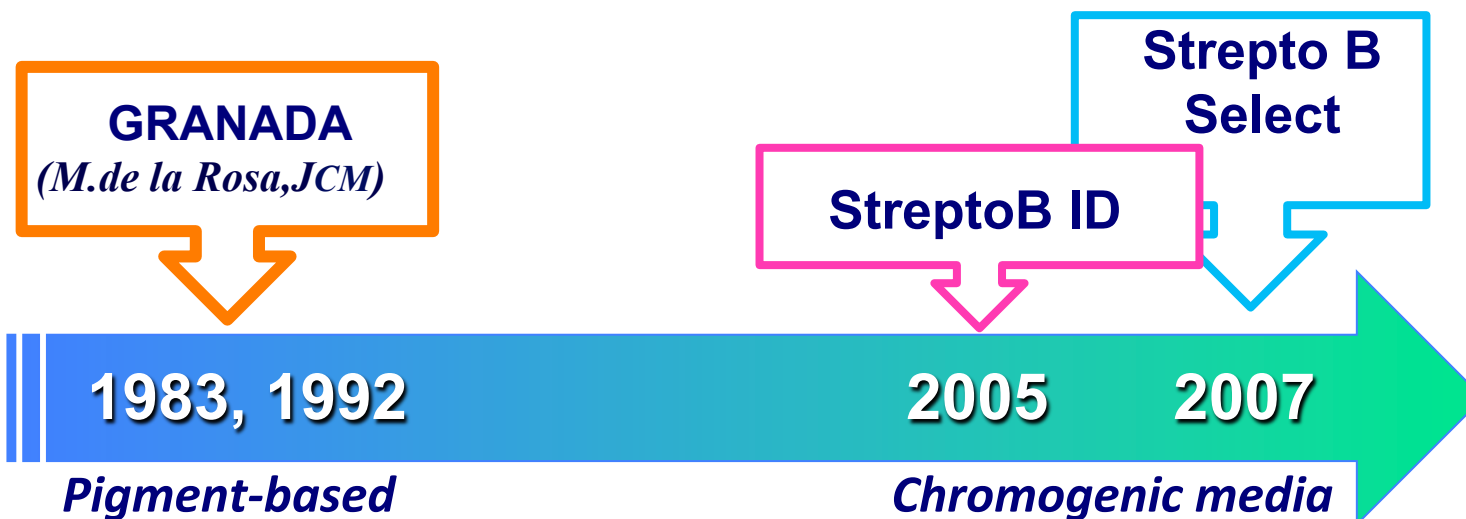
Evolution of culture methods

Use of selective enrichment broth

- To maximize the isolation of GBS
- To avoid overgrowth of other organisms

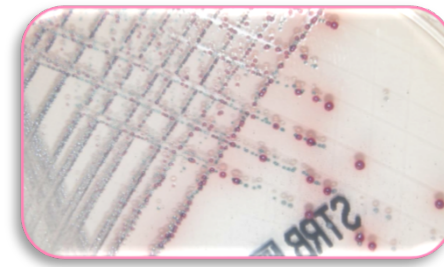
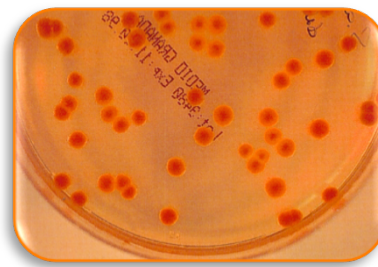
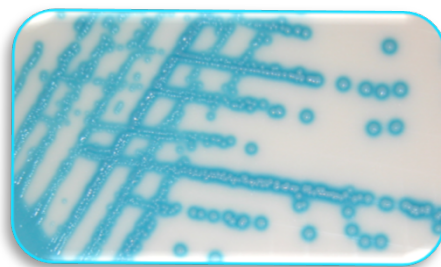
Use of differential agar media

Recommended by some European guidelines (+ CDC 2010)



Which agar or which combination?

+/- Blood agar



**Workload - costs - extra-testing - non β -hemolytic
GBS detection to be considered**

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/condition**
(non nutritive medium: Amies/Stuart or Granada like tube) (type of swab)(Length and T°)
- **Request form** To specify prenatal « GBS » screening
- **Laboratory procedure**

(CDC 2010 - Belgian SCH 2003)

Prenatal culture-based screening: Limiting factors

- **Positive and negative predictive values**
 - **False-negative results**
 - Failure of GBS culture (oral ATB, feminine hygiene) or new acquisition
 - Up to 1/3 of GBS positive women at time of delivery
 - Continuing occurrence of EO GBS cases
 - **False-positive**
 - Unnecessary IAP

Need for more accurate predictor of intrapartum GBS vaginal colonization

Prenatal culture-based screening: Limiting factors

- **Unknown GBS status at presentation for delivery**
 - Screening performed but result not available
 - Women with no prenatal care



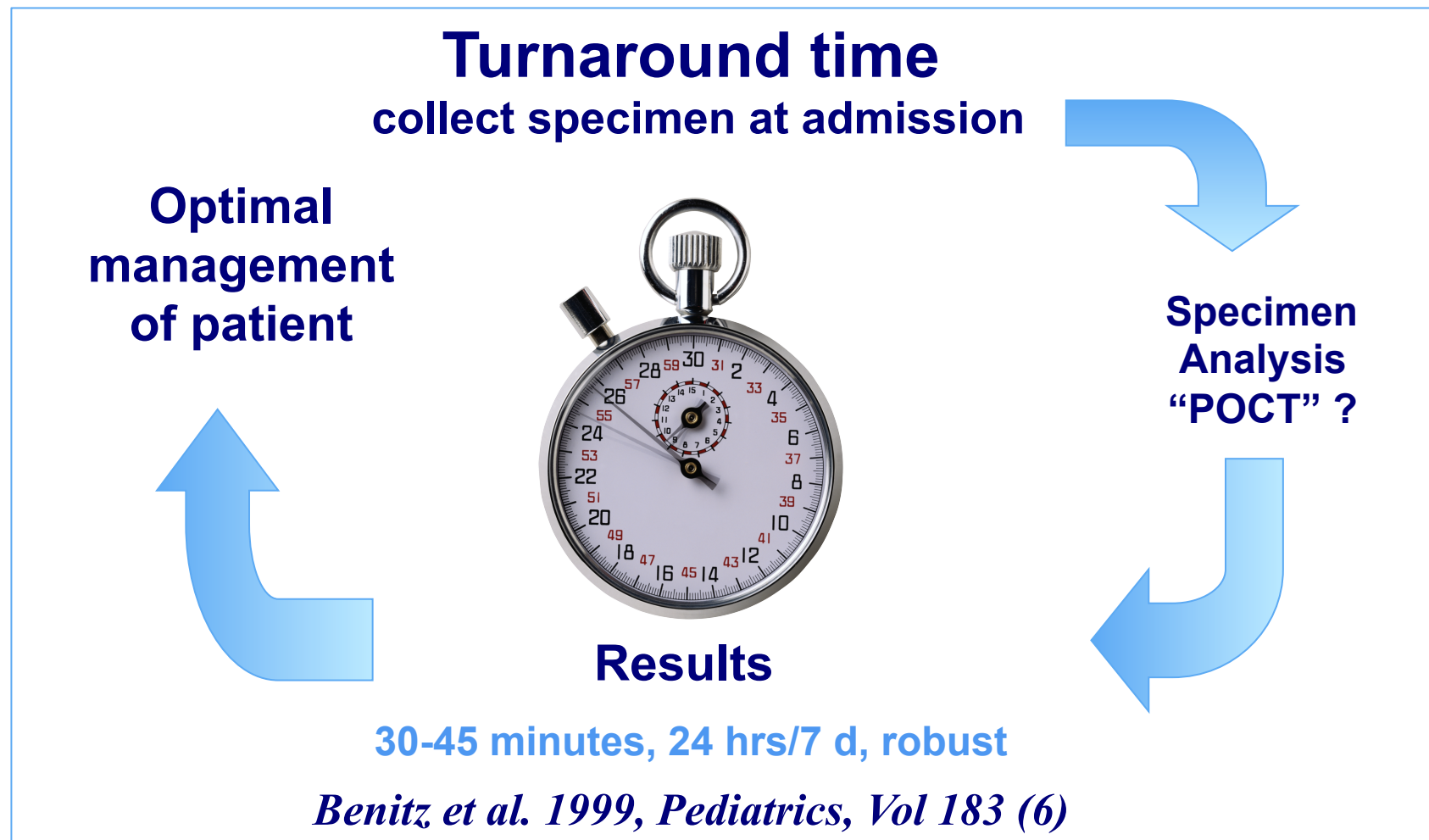
Risk based strategy

- 60% at GBS risk not identified
- > 10% of unnecessary IAP

Need for rapid accurate predictor of intrapartum GBS vaginal colonization

Alternative to GBS prenatal screening: intrapartum screening

Theranostic approach



Intrapartum screening theranostic approach: expected advantages

- Identification of women without prenatal screening/ care
- Inclusion of women with change of GBS status after 35-37 wks gestation
- Increased accuracy of vaginal GBS colonization status at time of labor & delivery



Real Time PCR for intrapartum screening

- **Advance in PCR techniques & development of platforms**
 - **BD GeneOhm™ Strep B Assay (+/- 1 hr) (in laboratory)**
 - **Xpert GBS, Cepheid (35-45 min) (can be performed as a POCT)**



Xpert GBS for intrapartum screening

Diagnostic Accuracy of a Rapid Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction Assay for Universal Intrapartum Group B Streptococcus Screening

Najoua El Helali, Jean-Claude Nguyen, Aïcha Ly, Yves Giovangrandi and Ludovic Trinquart

Clinical Infectious Diseases 2009;49:417–23

- **968 Pregnant women**
- **Intrapartum Xpert GBS, Cepheid** (performed in lab)
 - **vs intrapartum culture** **prenatal culture** (*French recom.*)
(vaginal swab/CNA-BA)

▪ Sensitivity	98.5%		
▪ Specificity	99.6%		
▪ PPV	97.8%	PPV	58.3%
▪ NPV	99.7%	NPV	92.1%

Xpert GBS for intrapartum screening

Cost and effectiveness of intrapartum group B streptococcus polymerase chain reaction screening for term deliveries.

El Helali N, Giovangrandi Y, Guyot K, Chevet K, Gutmann L, Durand-Zaleski I

Obstet Gynecol 2012 Apr;119 (4):822-9

2009

Antenatal screening

11.7% GBS POS

2010

Xpert GBS intrapartum screening

Performed by midwives as a POCT !!

16.7% GBS POS

Less GBS EOD & less severe

Cost neutral per delivery

Xpert GBS for intrapartum screening

Real-Time PCR Assay Provides Reliable Assessment of Intrapartum Carriage of Group B *Streptococcus*

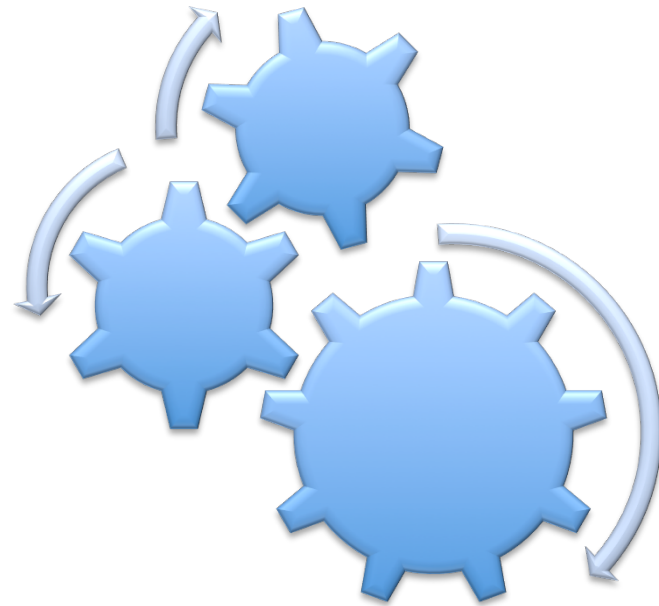
Michelle J. Alfa, Shadi Sepehri, Pat De Gagne, Michael Helawa, Gunwat Sandhu, and Godfrey K. M. Harding

JCM, Sept. 2010, p. 3095–3099

- 205 Pregnant women
- Intrapartum Xpert GBS, Cepheid
 - vs intrapartum culture
 - 24.5% GBS pos (vagino-rectal swab/LIM)
 - Sensitivity 91.7%
 - Specificity 99.3%
 - PPV 97.7%
 - NPV 97.3%

Real-time PCR, very promising, but ...

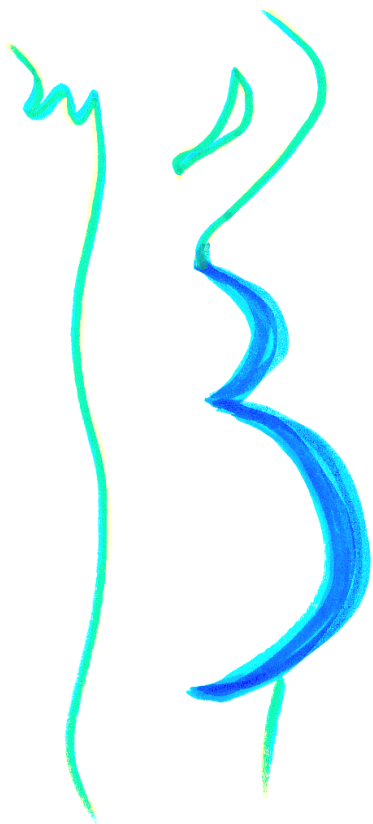
- **Rapid, robust & accurate technology**
- **Still an expensive technology (specific equipment)**
 - Cost effective ?
 - *Need for more cost-effective clinical study*
- **Logistic**
 - 24 hours 7 days
 - In the lab?
 - In the obstetrical department as a POCT ?
- **In combination with prenatal screening strategy ?**
 - CDC 2010
- **No antimicrobial result**
 - In the future detection of R genes, but mixed microbiota !



CONCLUSION

Take home messages

In Europe, as globally



- **Neonatal GBS diseases**
 - **EOD and LOD, a public health concern**
 - **IAP efficient for prevention of EOD**
 - **Best strategy still a matter of debate**
 - **Not 100% efficient**
 - **No effect on LOD**
 - **IAP not widely recommended**
 - **Need better data assessing more accurately the true burden**
- **GBS vaccine eagerly expected**

Summary

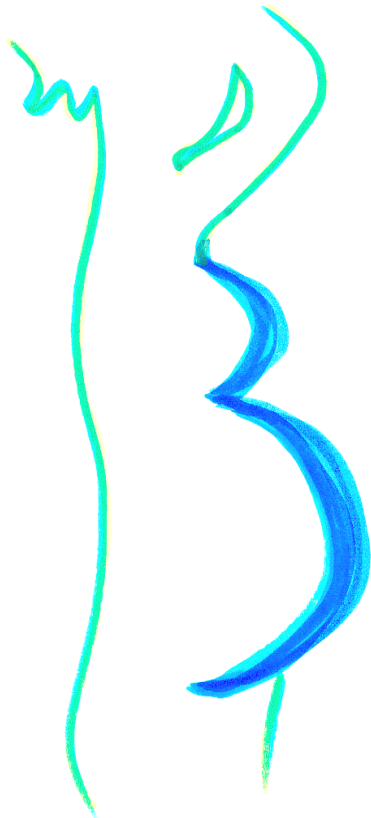
“Screening” Prevention strategies

- **Culture-based GBS prenatal screening**
 - To optimize critical factors
 - Improved by selective differential agars
 - False +/False - !

- **Rapid intrapartum screening**

“From a dream to reality”

- **Real time PCR**
 - Yes but costs, logistic, ...
 - Need for more clinical trial and cost effectiveness evaluation



Thanks !



Prevention of perinatal GBS EOD

- Screening-based strategy

INTRAPARTUM ANTIMICROBIAL PROPHYLAXIS

Main goal :

- To prevent 70 to 80 % of GBS EO cases

Secondary :

- To reduce peripartum maternal morbidity

Intrapartum IV Antibio-Prophylaxis

(CDC 2010, Belgian SHC 2003)

■ Penicillin G

- *5 millions U, IV initial dose, then 2,5 to 3 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**

■ *If penicillin allergy*

- **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 : use vancomycin*