

WHO CAN ANSWER FURTHER
QUESTIONS ON CMV AND HEARING
LOSS?

- Your pediatric care provider
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical
Center's Newborn Hearing
Screening Program at
(617) 667-8643



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bidmc.org

CMV

AND HEARING SCREENINGS



INFORMATION ABOUT TESTING
NEWBORNS FOR
CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV) AT
BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS
MEDICAL CENTER

CMV

AND HEARING SCREENINGS



About CMV:

Infection with cytomegalovirus (CMV) is very common. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 50% and 80% of people in the United States have had a CMV infection by the time they are 40 years old. Most people who are infected with CMV have no signs or symptoms and suffer no harmful effects. However, when CMV infection occurs during a woman's pregnancy, the virus can be transmitted to the unborn infant.

If your infant did not pass the hearing screening he/she will be scheduled for a diagnostic hearing test and tested for CMV prior to discharge from the hospital.

Why test for CMV after an infant does not pass the hearing screening?

1. One third of childhood hearing loss is due to a CMV infection at birth.
2. It is more difficult to accurately diagnose congenital CMV after the neonatal period (first 21 days of life).
3. If CMV testing is positive and baby is diagnosed with hearing loss, early treatment has been shown to be beneficial in halting progression of hearing loss.

How do you test for CMV?

CMV testing is easily done by taking a small sample of your infant's saliva on a cotton swab. The swab is then sent to our lab for analysis.

How and when will I find out the results of the CMV test?

CMV test results take approximately 1 week to be analyzed. A member of the BIDMC team will notify your pediatrician when the results are available.

What are the possible outcomes of testing?

There are several possible outcomes of the diagnostic hearing test and CMV culture.

Results of Diagnostic Hearing Test	Results of CMV Culture	Hearing Follow-up Recommendations
Normal Hearing	Negative	Normal Follow-up
Normal Hearing	Positive	Frequent Follow-up
Hearing Loss	Negative	Frequent Follow-up
Hearing Loss	Positive	Discuss treatment options, frequent follow-up

Your baby's risk of having a permanent hearing loss and CMV infection is very low. CMV infection occurs in 1-2% of all live births in the United States.

What if my baby has congenital CMV?

Your primary care provider will direct your baby's care and refer to any needed specialists.