

Protect Your Baby: Eliminating Perinatal Hepatitis B & C Transmission in Hennepin County



Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program: Hennepin County, Minnesota by Scott Hallal-Negishi

★★★★★ 5 out of 5



Every child deserves a healthy start in life. Unfortunately, preventable diseases can have a profound impact on a child's health and well-being. Perinatal hepatitis B and C are two such diseases that can have serious consequences for infants and their families.

The good news is that perinatal hepatitis B and C transmission can be prevented. Hennepin County, Minnesota, has implemented a comprehensive Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program that has been highly successful in reducing the incidence of these diseases.

What are Hepatitis B and C?

Hepatitis B and C are viruses that can cause inflammation of the liver. While both viruses can be transmitted through contact with infected blood, hepatitis B can also be transmitted through contact with other bodily fluids, such as saliva and semen.

Perinatal transmission of hepatitis B and C occurs when an infected mother passes the virus to her baby during pregnancy, labor, or delivery. This can have serious consequences for the infant, including:

* Liver damage * Chronic liver disease * Liver cancer * Death

The Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program in Hennepin County

In response to the high rates of perinatal hepatitis B and C transmission in Hennepin County, the county launched the Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program in 2007. The program has three main goals:

1. To screen all pregnant women for hepatitis B and C. 2. To provide vaccination and treatment to infected women. 3. To follow up with infants born to infected mothers to ensure they are vaccinated and tested for the virus.

The program has been highly successful in achieving these goals. In 2007, the rate of perinatal hepatitis B transmission in Hennepin County was 2.1%. By 2016, the rate had dropped to 0.2%. Similarly, the rate of perinatal hepatitis C transmission dropped from 1.2% to 0.1% during the same period.

How the Program Works

The Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program is a collaborative effort between the Hennepin County Department of Health, Hennepin County Medical Center, and other community partners. The program works by:

- * Screening all pregnant women for hepatitis B and C. This is done through a simple blood test.
- * Providing vaccination and treatment to infected women. Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent hepatitis B transmission. Treatment can help to prevent or slow the progression of hepatitis C.
- * Following up with infants born to infected mothers. This is done to ensure that the infants are vaccinated and tested for the virus.

The Impact of the Program

The Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program has had a significant impact on the health of infants in Hennepin County. The program has led to a dramatic decrease in the rates of perinatal hepatitis B and C transmission. This has resulted in fewer infants being born with these diseases and fewer infants suffering from the associated health problems.

In addition to its impact on infant health, the program has also had a positive impact on the community as a whole. By reducing the number of infants born with hepatitis B and C, the program has helped to reduce the spread of these diseases in the community. This has resulted in fewer people being infected with these diseases and fewer people suffering from the associated health problems.

The Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program in Hennepin County is a success story in public health. The program has demonstrated that it is possible to eliminate perinatal hepatitis B and C transmission. This has had

a significant impact on the health of infants in Hennepin County and has helped to reduce the spread of these diseases in the community.

The Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program is a model for other communities that are looking to eliminate perinatal hepatitis B and C transmission. The program's success is due to its comprehensive approach, which includes screening, vaccination, and treatment. By working together, communities can make a real difference in the health of their children.

For More Information

To learn more about the Perinatal Hepatitis Prevention Program in Hennepin County, please visit the following website:
www.hennepin.us/perinatalhepatitis

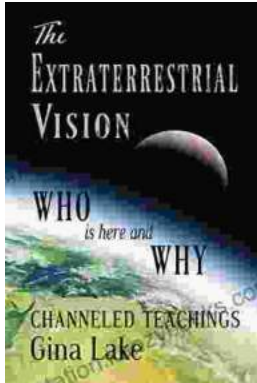
You can also contact the Hennepin County Department of Health at (612) 543-5555.



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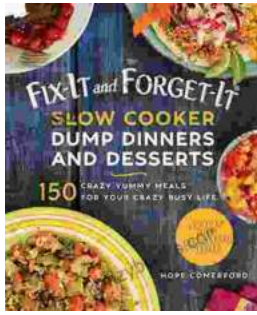
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