

Positive Result:

Blood Spot Screen Result Notification



Urgent Positive Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)

What was found on the newborn screen?

The newborn screen that was collected at birth found that your baby has no or low levels of T-cell receptor excision circles (TRECs). TRECs are made by specialized white blood cells called T-cells that help with protection against infection and illness.

What does this mean?

A positive result means that your baby needs more testing to see if the immune system that fights off infection is working properly. A positive result does not mean your baby has SCID, but more testing is needed to know for sure.

What happens next?

Your baby's doctor or a specialist familiar with SCID will help arrange for more testing. Your baby will also be seen by an immunologist or infectious disease specialist.

Because common illnesses in children with SCID can be life-threatening, it is important to keep your baby and family healthy. Until the additional test results are back, your baby's doctors will want your family to avoid contact with others outside your home, especially those who are sick or have recently been vaccinated.

What is SCID?

SCID is a condition present in a baby at birth where the body doesn't have an immune system that works well. Without a good immune system, the body is not able to fight infections. A simple infection can become serious for a child with SCID.

What health problems can it cause?

If untreated, SCID can cause:

- Frequent, serious infections
- Diarrhea
- Skin rash

Children with SCID can benefit from prompt and careful treatment.

What treatment options are available?

Treatment for children with SCID can include:

- Immunoglobulin replacement therapy
- Enzyme replacement therapy
- Antibiotics to prevent infection

However, a successful bone marrow transplant is the most effective treatment. Bone marrow transplants are best done within the first three months of life before an infection occurs.

Children with SCID should see their regular doctor and a doctor who specializes in SCID.

Resources

Genetics Home Reference:
<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov>

Save Babies Through Screening Foundation:
www.savebabies.org

Baby's First Test:
www.babysfirsttest.org