

Positive Result:

Blood Spot Screen Result Notification



High Levels of Total Galactose (TGAL)

What was found on the newborn screen?

The newborn screen that was collected at birth found that your baby has high levels of total galactose (TGAL).

What does this mean?

High levels of TGAL can indicate that your child may have Duarte galactosemia (DG). A positive result does not mean your baby has DG, but more testing is needed to know for sure.

What happens next?

Your baby's doctor will help arrange for more testing and schedule an appointment with a metabolic specialist. The specialist will likely want to switch your baby to a soy-based formula while testing is in process.

What is Duarte galactosemia?

Duarte galactosemia is a milder variant of galactosemia.

Galactosemia is a condition present in a baby at birth where the body is not able to use a milk sugar called galactose. Galactose comes from food, including all breast milk, all dairy products, and many baby formulas.

What health problems can it cause?

Most individuals with DG never develop health problems. For many years, specialists worried that children with DG would be harmed by drinking milk. A recent study, however, found no significant differences in developmental outcomes between children with DG and children without it. There was also no differences between those who were exposed to milk in infancy and those who were not.

What treatment options are available?

Not all specialists recommend treating DG. Recommendations regarding treatment should be discussed with specialists and may be determined on a case-by-case basis. If treatment is recommended, it consists of a change in diet to limit the milk sugar, galactose.

Children with DG should see their regular doctor and a metabolic specialist.

Resources

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

Save Babies Through Screening Foundation:
www.savebabies.org

Baby's First Test:
www.babysfirsttest.org