TORCH Screening (OLD VERSION)

 There are several serious maternal infections that are associated with congenital anomalies and disorders. The acronym, TORCH, stands for toxoplasmosis, other (gonorrhea, hepatitis B, syphilis, varicella-zoster virus, parvovirus B19, and HIV), rubella, cytomegalovirus, and herpes simplex virus.



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TORCH

Toxoplasmosis
Tux-plasma Gandhi
This is a protozoan infection and is often associated with pregnant women changing cat litter boxes.

Other
Other-causes
This category includes infections such as gonorrhea, syphilis, varicella, hepatitis B virus (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and parvovirus. There are a variety of conditions that can have adverse effects on the fetus. Testing for these conditions is imperative in the prenatal period. Determining immunity status via titers can assist with identifying those conditions that the mother is susceptible to based on a low titer.

Rubella
Red-bell
Rubella, also known as German measles, is a disease caused by the rubella virus and characteristically presents with a rash, low grade fever, cold-like symptoms and swollen glands.

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
Side-toe-mega-virus
CMV infection or cytomegalic inclusion disease (CMID) during pregnancy can lead to miscarriage or stillbirth. Newborns with CMID present with IUGR and may be lethargic, have hypotonia, microcephaly, and experience seizures.

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)
Herpes-harp Virus
H stands for herpes simplex virus infection and this can be transmitted from mother to neonate during birth.

Considerations

Diagnostic Testing
Diagnostic-computer Testing
Pregnant mothers need diagnostic testing to determine titers and risk for TORCH infections.

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