

Positive Result:

Blood Spot Screen Result Notification



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 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. We count TRECs to screen for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

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 or some other T-cell lymphopenia, but more testing is needed to know for sure.

What happens next?

Your baby's doctor or a specialist familiar with SCID and other T-cell lymphopenias will help arrange for more testing. Your baby may also be seen by an immunologist or infectious disease specialist.

Because common illnesses in children with a T-cell lymphopenia can be serious, 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 a T-cell lymphopenia?

T-cell lymphopenia 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 be serious for a child with SCID.

What health problems can it cause?

The health problems associated with T-cell lymphopenias depends on the underlying cause.

T-cell lymphopenia can sometimes be found in children with certain medical problems like prematurity, heart defects, or fluid build up.

It is also found in children with certain syndromes like 22q11.2 deletion (a.k.a. DiGeorge) syndrome and trisomy 21 (a.k.a. Down syndrome).

There are some infants with T-cell lymphopenia where the cause of their lymphopenia cannot be determined even after thorough testing.

What treatment options are available?

The treatment options will vary depending on the cause of the health problems. Children with a T-cell lymphopenia should see their regular doctor and a doctor who specializes in immunology/infectious disease.

Resources

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

Save Babies Through Screening Foundation:
www.savebabies.org

Baby's First Test:
www.babysfirsttest.org