

Group B Strep Association

PO Box 16515
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
bstrep@mindspring.com
1-919-923-4580

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Dear Dr. Fischer,

The Group B Strep Association welcomes the announcement of the Minervax maternal GBS vaccine!

The Group B Strep Association formed in 1990 in the United States to both educate parents and to advocate for a national standard of care for neonatal Group B Strep infections.

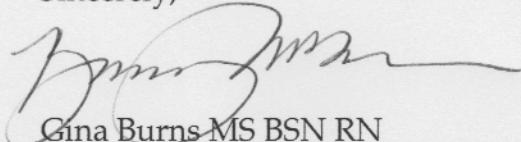
We are a consortium of families and medical professionals working together to both create awareness, to educate and to bring an end to neonatal and maternal GBS disease.

Intrapartum antibiotics for mothers who culture positive for GBS has been the national standard of care in the U.S. since 2002. This prevention approach has always been considered to be *interim* until a GBS maternal vaccine could be developed. The current standard of maternal IAP has been able to reduce the incidence of early onset disease by approximately 80%.

Yet there has been no reduction in pre-term loss or late onset disease in the United States with the current prevention strategy. A GBS maternal vaccine is critical to bringing an end to this disease.

We look forward to working with Minervax as their GBS vaccine program develops. A maternal vaccine for GBS disease will offer the best prevention for pre-term loss, stillbirth, early onset and late onset disease.

Sincerely,



Gina Burns MS BSN RN
President – Group B Strep Association