

Rapid group A Strep testing

This leaflet explains the validation process for rapid group A Strep testing. If you have any questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

Group A Streptococcus (GAS)

GAS is a particular group of bacteria that are commonly found on the skin or in the throat. Sometimes, these bacteria can cause disease. While this disease is normally mild, it can cause more severe disease, and rarely, more serious and potentially life-threatening infections.

Testing a new device

We're testing a rapid-testing device in our emergency department. This will allow us to check if someone has a specific bacteria (group A Streptococcus), in their throat, which could be the cause of an infection.

This device is already being used in many other centres, and gives very accurate results in about 20 minutes. All new devices need to be run alongside existing methods to make sure that future results will be correct. This is called validation.

If you consent to this validation process, the only difference to your child's current treatment plan will be an extra throat swab being taken at the same time as the usual one.

Although this will not change your child's treatment, we hope you will consider helping us with this process to help other children receive treatment in the future.

Taking part in the validation process

You and your child's involvement is completely voluntary. If you do not take part, it will not affect your child's care in any way.

This validation process is only being used for children where the decision to give antibiotics has already been made. This means that your child will receive the course of antibiotics, even if the rapid test shows a negative result.

Risks of the test

There is no extra risk from the extra swab. Of course, some children do not like having swabs done and it could cause some upset, but the swab process is the same as any other swab that we would take.

Next steps

When you have read this leaflet, a doctor or nurse will ask you if you consent to us taking the extra swab from your child's throat. You can ask us any questions about this procedure before you make up your mind. Please tell us your decision.

Changing your mind

Taking part is entirely voluntary, so please let us know before the swab is taken if you change your mind.

How we'll use the sample

We place the swab in a liquid. Only about half of this solution is needed. Any of the sample that is leftover will be prepared for culture testing, in a similar way to the existing bacterial swabs. All results will be compared to the results from our existing testing process (which takes several days). Our aim is to be able to detect the presence of these bacteria faster in the future.

Support and more information

NHS, [web www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/)

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about rapid group A Strep testing, please contact our emergency department, [phone](tel:02071882111) 020 7188 2111.

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [web](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets) www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, [phone](tel:02071883003) 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm [email](mailto:letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk) letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), [phone](tel:02071888801) 020 7188 8801 [email](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk) pals@gstt.nhs.uk. To make a complaint contact the resolution department [phone](tel:02071883514) 020 7188 3514 [email](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk) complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch, [phone](tel:02071888815) 020 7188 8815 [email](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk) languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day, [phone](tel:111) 111 [web](http://www.111.nhs.uk) www.111.nhs.uk

NHS website

This website gives information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing, [web](http://www.nhs.uk) www.nhs.uk

Leaflet number: 5340/VER1

Date published: January 2023

Review date: January 2026

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A list of sources is available on request