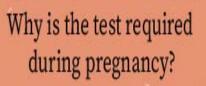
Why Is It Crucial To Test For **Penicillin** Allergy During Pregnancy?

A penicillin allergy test determines a person's risk of developing allergic reactions to the penicillin group of antibiotics.



- A pregnant woman may require antibiotics for bacterial infections that may threaten maternal and fetal safety.
- Most of the pregnancy-safe antibiotics belong to the penicillin group.





- Validity of self-reported penicillin allergy by pregnant women
- About 8 to 13% of pregnant women report penicillin allergy, but when tested, the majority do not exhibit a positive reaction.
- Pre-existing penicillin allergy may decrease or disappear after about ten years.

Advantages of ruling out penicillin allergy during pregnancy

- Broad-spectrum antibiotics, used as alternatives to penicillin, increase the risk of developing antibiotic resistance in the future.
- Alternatives are less effective in preventing infections after a C-section delivery.
- Ensuring the absence of hypersensitivity reactions will eliminate the need to use alternatives.



References:

- 1. What infections can affect pregnancy?; Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- 2. Time Has Come for Routine Penicillin Allergy Testing in Obstetrics; National Center for Biotechnology Information
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Source: https://www.momjunction.com/articles/amoxicillin-while-pregnant-safetyrisks_00787130/