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Group A Strep (GAS)

GAS is a common bacteria which causes a range of infections including scarlet fever. These infections are usually mild.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

It can also cause a rare, more serious infection called Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS). This occurs when GAS bacteria gets into parts of the body where it causes serious disease, like the lungs or blood stream.



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Cases of Invasive Group A Strep are rare. Some current cases are presenting with sepsis-like symptoms.

Be aware of important sepsis symptoms:

- Blue, pale, or blotchy skin, lips or tongue – on darker skin, check for blueness on the lips, tongue or gums, under the nails or around the eyes
- Rash that doesn't fade when you roll a glass over it
- Difficulty breathing
- Weak high-pitched cry – not like their normal cry
- Not responding like normal, not interested in feeding or normal activities
- Being sleepier than normal or difficult to wake.



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Parents should trust their judgement when their child is poorly. Speak to your GP or call 111 if your child is poorly and getting worse.

Always call 999 or go to A&E if your child:

- Is having difficulty breathing – such as grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- There are pauses when your child breathes
- Child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- Is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.