

Glutaric Acidemia Type 1 (GA1)

(Sounds like *GLUE-TARE-IC ACID-E-MIA TYPE 1*)



What is newborn blood spot screening?

This is a blood test, from a heel poke, that is done a day or 2 after babies are born to test for treatable conditions including glutaric acidemia type 1 (GA1) that you, your doctor, or midwife can't see by just looking at your baby. This screening test is different from those done during pregnancy.



What does it mean if my baby needs more tests for GA1?

A baby needs to have more testing for GA1 when their screening test result is abnormal or positive. This doesn't mean your baby has GA1. It means your baby has a higher chance of having the condition and will need more tests to find out if they have GA1 or not.

It's normal to feel worried if your baby needs more testing. Your specialists and other healthcare providers are there to support you. They'll explain what will happen and answer your questions.

What is GA1?

GA1 is a metabolic condition that affects how the body uses protein from the food you eat to make energy. This includes breastmilk and regular formula. With GA1, your body can't break down 3 building blocks of protein called lysine, hydroxylysine (hi-drox-y-lie-scene) and tryptophan (trip-toe-fan). These then build up in your body and can cause serious health problems.

What causes GA1?

GA1 is genetic. This means babies with GA1 are born with a gene from both parents, which has a change in it. This change stops the gene from working properly. GA1 isn't caused by anything that happened during pregnancy.

There may be no signs of GA1 at birth. It's important to remember that this condition can't be seen by looking at your baby.



What can I expect with more testing?

Everything that will happen with more testing will be explained to you. Your baby may need to have their blood and urine tested to check for GA1.

This testing may be done at a clinic in Edmonton or Calgary that specializes in GA1.

What if more testing shows my baby has GA1?

If testing shows that your baby has GA1 a specialized healthcare team will work with you to make a care plan for your baby. You and your baby will get the best care and support possible.

How is GA1 treated?

Babies with GA1 usually go on a low-protein diet and drink a special formula. Special medicine is also needed. The specialized healthcare team will give you detailed instructions about how to manage your baby's health.



