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**STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE AS A HUMAN PATHOGEN**  
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*Streptococcus agalactiae* is a common pathogen in different countries all over the world. It is now known to be one of the leading causes of spontaneous abortions, neonatal morbidity resulting in septicemia, endocarditis and meningitis.

This gram-positive coccus bacterium is also known as “Group B Streptococcus” (GBS) and is one of the many serologically distinct species within the genus *Streptococcus*. It has been described as an encapsulated diplococcus that exhibits  $\beta$ -haemolysis on blood agar, is a facultative anaerobe, is seen to be nutritionally fastidious and is a catalase & mannitol salt negative bacterium. It also hydrolyses Sodium Hippurate, is bacitracin resistant, CAMP test positive and is known to be a chain forming group.

According to some studies *S.agalactiae* does not harm in some people and is considered to be a normal component of the intestinal and genital microbiota, but on the contrary it also causes severe illnesses like sepsis, pneumonia and skin infections in adults. Modern day research also has found links between GBS and people suffering with conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer; the risks being higher if a person falls in the age category > 65years. However, it has been observed that regardless of its invasive nature, GBS in around 30% of the cases is an asymptomatic settler in the gastrointestinal tract, vagina and rectum in an otherwise healthy adult population.

This paper aims to describe the general characteristics of the bacterium, its reach across different host populations, effects in immunocompromised hosts, symptoms of early-onset and late-onset diseases in infants and the process of *Streptococcus* invading the microvascular endothelial cells present in the human brain.