



Research on bacterial infections in pregnant women

Why we did this research

Pregnant women sometimes have infections that can affect the health of their babies. While the baby grows in its mother's womb, it floats in fluid that is surrounded by a protective lining. This lining is called the fetal membrane. Sometimes bacteria can infect this membrane. This can cause a baby to be born too early or with a serious infection. We wanted to understand how the fetal membrane reacts to infection. Our hope is to find new ways to prevent and treat these infections.

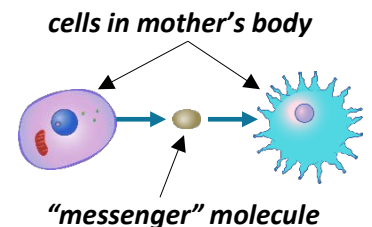


What we did

We studied the effects of treating the fetal membrane by using cells in the mother's body that fight off infection.

What we learned

We found that certain cells in the mother's body can tell each other when there is an infection by releasing small molecules. One of these molecules seems to act as a messenger between cells to help her body fight off the infection.



Why this matters

Pregnant mothers can pass infections to their growing babies. Future studies will find new ways to help the mother's body fight off these infections. Such findings would lower the risk of these infections in pregnant mothers.

Thank you!

A special "thank you" to our partners in research – the study volunteers. Your participation made all the difference!

To view the [full scientific article](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/aji.13032) about the study, please click the link below:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/aji.13032>.