What is chickenpox?

Chickenpox comes from the virus known as Varicella Zoster Virus. It is a highly contagious infectious disease that is characterized by an itchy rash and fever. It does not usually occur until 14-18 days after exposed. It is contagious one to two days before the rash appears and until all blisters have formed scabs. The whole process, on average, lasts for about five days.

The virus can be spread in a few ways. The first is through respiratory droplets in the air caused by coughing or sneezing. The second is through direct contact with the rash of an infected individual.

Symptoms of chickenpox include the following:
- high fever
- severe itching
- rash
- vomiting
- dehydration
- headaches
- skin lesions
- pneumonia

Interesting Facts

* Before a vaccine was available, there were approximately 100 deaths from chickenpox in the U.S. every year.

* Up to 30 percent of infected babies die if not treated.

* When tested, 85 percent of women find out they actually are immune even though they have no prior history.

For more information please visit the following:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Vaccine
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/VariCella/

Discovery Health Pregnancy Center
http://health.discovery.com/Centers/pregnancy/americanbaby/chickenpox_02.html

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Pregnancy
http://www.cdc.gov/mchbddd/pregnancy_gateway/infection_chickenpox.htm#what

Parenting and Child Health

Emily Gallmeyer
Professor Shipman
EDUC 263
19 February 2009
How Can I Avoid Getting Chickenpox?

**Pre-Pregnancy**
* If not yet pregnant, ask your doctor about getting the Varicella Vaccination
* Wait at least three months after the vaccine before attempting to conceive

**Post Pregnancy**
* If no history of virus avoid contact with anyone who has or has been in contact with chickenpox
* Contact a physician if exposed to someone who has virus
* A prevention option is a treatment of VZIG (Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin)
  - Safe for mother and baby

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How Do I Treat Chicken Pox?

If the mother contracts chickenpox while pregnant there is a chance the baby will acquire it. If developed between 6 and 21 days before delivery, the baby will likely have a mild case needing no treatment. If developed between 5 days before delivery or 2 days after the baby has a 25 percent chance of getting severe chickenpox within the first week of birth. However, if precautions are taken it is unlikely for this to occur.

Infections will be minor if not prevented if the newborn is treated immediately after birth with VZIG (Varicella-Zoster Immune Globulin). There are also a few new antiviral drugs that are being offered.

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What Are Possible Affects of Chickenpox?

* If an at risk pregnant woman is exposed to a person, whom they spend a majority of their time with, then she has a 90 percent chance of acquiring chickenpox.

* Eleven percent of infected adults, including pregnant women, develop a risky form of pneumonia.

* The fetus face a two percent risk of developing the following:
  - Congenital Varicella Syndrome
  - Birth defects
  - Muscle and bone abnormalities
  - Paralyzed limbs
  - Small head
  - Blindness
  - Seizures
  - Mental retardation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Poor/unacceptable</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content/Accuracy</td>
<td>Information incorrect and/or missing (0-8 points)</td>
<td>Accurately covers most information but some areas may be inadequate or misleading (9-11 points)</td>
<td>Accurately covers required information (12-13 points)</td>
<td>Accurately covers all important information related to topic; shows extra effort to include more than was required (14-15 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization/Formatting</td>
<td>Organization and/or formatting confuse the reader (0-5)</td>
<td>Somewhat organized; formatting missing and/or inadequate; may confuse reader (6-7)</td>
<td>Well-organized; generally easy to follow with attractive formatting (8)</td>
<td>Well-organized, easy to follow; exceptional formatting (9-10)</td>
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<td>Type and graphics distract from the content and make comprehension difficult for the reader (0-5)</td>
<td>Type and graphics may distract from the content and/or are missing from brochure (6-7)</td>
<td>Makes good use of type, space, and graphics to enhance the content and readability (8)</td>
<td>Makes outstanding use of type, space and graphics to enhance the content and readability (9-10)</td>
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<td>Writing unclear and/or confusing with frequent grammatical or mechanical errors (0-5)</td>
<td>Some sections may be unclear or confusing with some grammatical or mechanical errors (6-7)</td>
<td>Generally well-written with few or no grammatical or mechanical errors (8)</td>
<td>Cleanly and concisely written with no grammatical or mechanical errors (9-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources</td>
<td>Includes no sources and/or inaccurately cited (0-2)</td>
<td>Includes some sources but may not be accurately cited (3)</td>
<td>Includes a variety of credible sources accurately cited in APA style (4)</td>
<td>Includes an excellent variety of credible sources accurately cited in APA style (5)</td>
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Total out of 50: 48.5

Teacher comments:

Excellent brochure, Emily—very informative with great visual appeal!