

Title: Do you need antibiotics for pre-labor rupture of membranes when you are at or near term?

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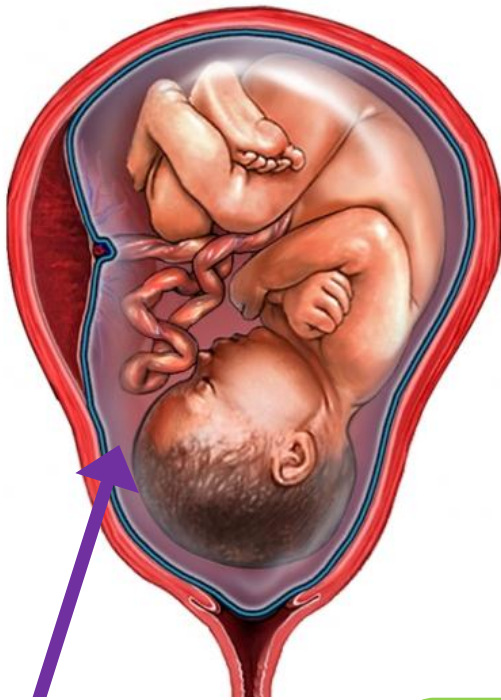
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**Abstract:** Treating women with term prelabor premature rupture of membranes (PROM) is shown to reduce maternal endometritis. However, given the low rates of this maternal infection in control populations, it is not recommended to expose all women with term PROM to antibiotics when treatment can be restricted to those who develop clinical indications. There is also insufficient information to assess possible adverse effects from the use of antibiotics for women and their infants.

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# Do you need antibiotics for pre-labor rupture of membranes when you are at or near term?



Fluid filled sac surrounding baby in the womb

**Pre-Labor Rupture of Membranes**  
Also called **premature rupture of membranes or PROM**  
Sometimes the membranes (these create the bag filled with liquid to cushion baby while in your uterus) break when the baby is due without the onset of uterine contractions (labor). Some women will spontaneously start to have contractions while others will need medications to start labor.

When pre-labor rupture of membranes occurs, there is a risk of infection entering the womb and this can affect mom and baby. Giving pregnant women with PROM routine antibiotics may reduce the risk of infection of the uterus. There is not clear evidence about other outcomes, including infections and complications for baby.

Antibiotics can have serious side effects for mom including anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) and antibacterial resistance. More research is needed on the safety and long-term effects of the antibiotics on babies.

The studies conducted on antibiotic use with PROM and outcomes for mom and baby are incomplete. More research needs to be done in this area.

## Bottom Line

**Routine antibiotics for pregnant women with pre-labor rupture of membranes should be avoided until more reliable evidence is available showing a clear benefit for both mom and baby.**