In this study when we say a baby has “severe illness” it means that the baby needed oxygen after birth when the mother would have been 36 weeks of pregnancy and/or the baby had a significant bleed on the brain, which in some babies leads to cerebral palsy.

Long term disability is hard to predict from these data

There are currently no national guidelines about how women with PPROM between 16 and 23 weeks of pregnancy should be cared for

Outcomes may be different if guidelines were introduced

How common is it?

Early PPROM happens to at least 2 women every 3 days in the UK

How certain are these numbers?

- There is uncertainty within these numbers because some women had a termination
- The proportion of women whose babies leave hospital without severe illness could be as low as 12% or as high as 49%

How can this research help?

1. By alerting healthcare professionals to the serious nature of sepsis with early PPROM and the need for urgent treatment
2. By alerting pregnant women to seek medical help promptly if they are unwell, especially if they have concerns about infection

Symptoms of infection

- Feeling hot and shivery
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- A high temperature
- Abdominal (tummy) pain or cramping

Important considerations

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