Objective
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection remains the commonest cause of infective neurological handicap since implementation of universal rubella vaccination. The number of children affected by congenital CMV is similar to other conditions such as Down syndrome, for which routine screening is advocated and community awareness is high. Congenital CMV infection affects more babies than neural tube defects and group B Streptococcus. CMV is the most common congenital infection in USA (prevalence 0.64%), approx. 1: 150 pregnancies infected (30000 new cases each year). 8000 neonates are permanently disabled/year and 400 neonates will die every year as a result of CMV. Approx. 2 billion $ spent on CMV related health care costs per year in the USA.

Methods
The most recent recommendation from ACOG is not routinely screen patients for CMV. The CDC also does not recommend routine maternal screening. The criteria for disease screening are: a) The disease must be: clinically important, prevalent and well characterized. b) The screening test must be: safe, reliable, valid. c) The intervention must be: effective, cost-effective and feasible.

Results
Regarding congenital CMV infection: a) The disease itself is clinically important, well defined, prevalent, the natural history is known, and substantial morbidity/mortality if left untreated. b) The screening and diagnostic tests are IgG, IgM and IgG avidity and they are well described, safe and reliable. Amniocentesis is safe and reliable as well as US scans and MRI. c) The interventions for prevention are: maternal education regarding hygiene (can reduce the risk by almost 50% for seronegative patients), there is potential treatment with CMV HIG and now days there are promising preliminary results with the use of Valcylovir.

Conclusion
Antenatal CMV screening should therefore be considered positively or at least to be discuss. The potential screening strategies are: Universal screening, Screening in high-risk women and Screening with fetal findings (US). I will be happy to present the subject.