
If you would like this information in another format or language or would like help completing the form, please ask a member of our staff

For staff use only:
Patient Details:
Surname:
First names:
Date of birth:
Hospital no:
(Use hospital identification label)

Patient agreement to investigation or treatment for:

Amniocentesis

Authors: Fetal Medicine Unit – Rosie Hospital

This test is not offered as a matter of routine. It is used most often to test for Down's syndrome, the commonest of chromosome disorders. Less commonly it may be used to test for other specific genetic disorders.

The test is most safely performed from 15 weeks of pregnancy onwards.

Please bring this form with you to hospital.

- You will be asked to read this form carefully and you and your doctor (or other appropriate health professional) will sign it to document your consent.
- All our consent forms (and guidance for health professionals) are available on the Addenbrooke's website: <http://www.addenbrookes.org.uk/consent>

Remember, you can change your mind about having the procedure at any time.

Let us know: Please let us know if we need to cancel any appointments for any reason (including illness) so your 'slot' can be used by others. Direct dial telephone to cancel an appointment in the Fetal Medicine Unit: 01223 216185 (or switchboard 01223 245151 and extn: 2185.

For staff use:

Does the patient have any special requirements? (eg requires an interpreter or other additional communication method)

.....
.....

Amniocentesis

Who should consider amniocentesis?

The final decision about having any test in pregnancy is yours but the following women may consider amniocentesis:

- Women with a high-risk result from a triple blood test, (sometimes called a serum screen) which is designed to find out the risk of having a baby with Down's syndrome.
- Women who have a potential problem found on the ultrasound scan, which may suggest a chromosomal abnormality.
- Women who have had pregnancy or a child affected by a genetic condition that can be tested for by an amniocentesis.
- Couples who have had a baby with a chromosomal abnormality such as Down's syndrome.
- Couples who have had a family history of genetic diseases including some rare inherited diseases.
- Women who have missed the screening tests for Down's syndrome, or request invasive testing for their own reasons.

The chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome by age

25	1 in 1500
30	1 in 910
35	1 in 380
38	1 in 190
40	1 in 110
45	1 in 30

What are the problems associated with amniocentesis?

Amniocentesis has now been available for a number of years and in Britain over 15,000 women have the test performed every year, so we know a lot about its safety and accuracy. We know that the test can sometimes cause a miscarriage and approximately 1 in every 100 women who have the test will miscarry as a result of the procedure. There is no evidence that the procedure itself harms your baby as the test is carried out under ultrasound guidance.

Is the amniocentesis test reliable?

No test is absolutely perfect, but the chromosome test for Down's syndrome is very reliable. It fails to give a clear result in less than 1 in 1000 cases.

If you are having the amniocentesis for other genetic disorders, you should discuss the accuracy of the test with your genetic doctor or counsellor.

Will the test tell me about anything other than Down's syndrome?

Although you may be having an amniocentesis to detect Down's syndrome, the test may occasionally detect problems with the other chromosomes. If the results show anything abnormal you will be told what the abnormality is and how this will affect your baby.

How is amniocentesis performed?

The test involves taking a small amount of the amniotic fluid (water) that surrounds the baby in the womb. This fluid contains cells from the baby that are tested in the laboratory.

Before the test is performed, an ultrasound scan is carried out to check your dates and position of both the baby and the placenta (afterbirth). You will not need a full bladder for this scan.

The skin over the abdomen is cleaned and a fine needle is then passed into the womb. A sample of the fluid that surrounds the baby is removed and sent to the laboratory. The position of both the baby and the needle are monitored throughout the procedure by ultrasound.

Is amniocentesis painful?

Most women say afterwards that the test is uncomfortable rather than painful and feels similar to period pain. Generally women say that the thought of it is worse than the actual test.

What happens after the amniocentesis test?

You will probably be at the hospital for about half an hour but the test itself takes a few minutes.

If your blood group is Rhesus negative, you will be given an injection following the procedure to prevent the formation of antibodies in your blood, which may otherwise affect future pregnancies.

We encourage you to bring a companion with you for support during and after the test. It is a good idea to take things easy for a couple of days after the test, avoiding any heavy lifting or strenuous exercise.

The "period pain" feeling may persist for 24-48 hours. This is not unusual and should settle after rest and Paracetamol, which is safe to take in pregnancy. If you have excessive pain, are leaking any fluid / bleeding or develop a high temperature, please contact your local labour ward for advice.

When do you get the results?

The chromosome test involves growing the cells in the laboratory and this usually takes about 2 weeks.

If the chromosomes are normal, we will send you a written report by post.

What if the results are abnormal?

If a chromosome problem is detected, you will usually be contacted by either the Fetal Medicine Unit or your own referring hospital. You would usually be contacted by telephone and given an opportunity to discuss the finding. You will be told what the abnormality is and how this could affect your baby. You will have the chance to discuss the results fully before making any decisions.

HIV infection

We would encourage women who are HIV positive to discuss invasive testing with their specialist midwife or doctor to obtain further information, as there is a small risk that the HIV virus can be passed on to the developing baby during the procedure.

Outcome of pregnancy

Outcome information is very important to us as this enables us to audit and improve our service. Following your appointment with us you will be given an outcome form and an addressed envelope, which we would be very grateful if you would complete and return to us.

Contacts

If you have any questions about amniocentesis please telephone the Fetal Medicine Unit at the Rosie on 01223-216185. We can arrange for a Fetal Medicine midwife to talk to you if you wish. We recognise that everyone will have his or her own particular questions and concerns to discuss. The midwife or doctor will usually be able to answer any questions you may have before you have your test.

For staff use only:

Surname:
First names:
Date of birth:
Hospital no:
Female:
(Use hospital identification label)

Patient agreement to Investigation or treatment

Name of proposed procedure or course of treatment

Amniocentesis

Statement of health professional (To be filled in by a health professional with an appropriate knowledge of the proposed procedure, as specified in the Hospital's consent policy)

I have explained the procedure to the patient. In particular, I have explained:

• **The intended benefits of the procedure**

It is used most often to test for Down's syndrome, the commonest of chromosome disorders. Less commonly it may be used to test for other specific genetic disorders.

• **Any serious or frequently occurring risks from the procedures**

We know that the test can sometimes cause a miscarriage and approximately 1 in every 100 women who have the test will miscarry as a result of the procedure.

I have also discussed what the treatment procedure is likely to involve, the benefits and risks of any available alternative treatments (including no treatment) and any particular concerns of this patient.

- The following information leaflet has been provided **Amniocentesis**

This procedure will involve: Local anaesthesia

Health professional's signature Date:

Name (PRINT): Job title:

Responsible health professional (if different from above) Job title.....

Contact details (if patient wishes to discuss details later): *Fetal Medicine Unit, Rosie Tel: 01223 216185*

I have offered the patient information about the procedure but she has refused information

Statement of the interpreter (if appropriate)

I have interpreted the information to the best of my ability, and in a way in which I believe the patient can understand:

Signed Date: Name (PRINT):

Statement of patient

I agree to the procedure described above.

I am aware that the procedure involves the introduction of a thin needle through my abdomen and the aspiration of amniotic fluid.

I am aware that the risk of a miscarriage after this procedure is approximately 1% above the background rate.

I am aware that there is a small risk of laboratory failure to obtain a result.

I agree / do not agree to have a blood sample taken from me before and / or after the procedure. This sample will be for research purposes.

I understand that you cannot give me a guarantee that a particular person will perform the procedure. The person will, however, have appropriate experience.

I understand the procedure will/will not involve local anaesthesia.

Signature: Date:

Name (PRINT):

Copy accepted by patient: yes / no (please ring)

Guidance for health professionals can be found at <http://www.addenbrookes.org.uk/consent/guidance>