

Amniocentesis

Amniocentesis is a test in which a small amount of amniotic fluid is removed with a thin needle. Amniotic fluid is the fluid that surrounds a baby in the uterus (womb). The sample is sent to a lab and tested for certain birth defects or genetic problems. This test may also be done for other reasons. The results of this test are very accurate.

There are some risks with this test:

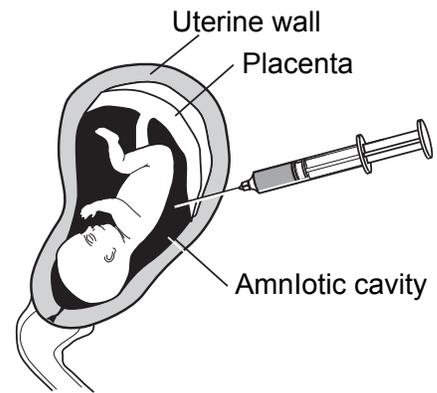
- A leak or infection of the amniotic fluid
- The needle touching the baby
- Early delivery
- Miscarriage

Talk to your doctor about these risks and any other concerns.

During the Test

Arrive on time for your test. Plan on this test taking about 1 hour.

- You will wear a hospital gown.
- You will lie on your back with your stomach uncovered.
- Your stomach will be cleaned.
- Your doctor will use ultrasound to see your baby and find safe pockets of amniotic fluid. An ultrasound is a picture of your baby using sound waves.
- Your doctor may numb the skin where the needle goes in. You may feel a sting.
- When the needle enters the uterus, you may feel cramping.
- The doctor will take out a small sample of the fluid and remove the needle. The needle is in for less than 1 minute.
- A monitor will be placed on your stomach for 15 to 30 minutes to check your baby's heartbeat.
- Once the lab tests are complete, your doctor will share the results with you. This may take about 2 weeks.



After the Test

- Rest at home today.
- Drink plenty of liquids.
- If you have cramping, lie on your left side.

Call your doctor right away if you have:

- Severe cramping
- Fluid leaking from the vagina
- Bleeding from the vagina
- Fever
- Your baby is less active
- Other concerns

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.