

AFP (Alpha-Fetoprotein) Test

AFP is a test used to check for birth defects in your baby. AFP is a protein made by your baby during pregnancy. It passes into your blood. To test AFP levels, a blood sample is taken from you. If the AFP level is high or low, your baby may have a birth defect.

The test causes no harm to you or to your baby. It can only test for some birth defects. Talk to your doctor about having this test. You can choose to not have this test.

What do the test results mean?

If your due date has changed or you are carrying twins, your result may be high or low. If your AFP level is high or low, there will be more tests.

These tests may include:

- A repeat of the AFP test
- A picture of your baby using sound waves called an ultrasound
- A test to check the fluid around your baby called amniocentesis
- Genetic counseling to review your test results

Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

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

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Test AFP (alpha-fœtoprotéine)

Le test AFP est utilisé pour déceler des anomalies congénitales chez votre bébé. L'AFP est une protéine produite par votre bébé lors de la grossesse. Elle passe dans votre sang. Pour tester les niveaux d'AFP, un prélèvement sanguin est effectué sur vous. Si le niveau d'AFP est trop élevé ou trop bas, il se peut que votre bébé ait une anomalie congénitale.

Le test n'est pas dangereux, ni pour vous, ni pour votre bébé. Il ne peut déceler que certaines anomalies congénitales. Discutez de ce test avec votre médecin. Vous pouvez décider de ne pas effectuer ce test.

Que signifient les résultats du test?

Si la date de votre accouchement a changé ou si vous portez des jumeaux, les résultats peuvent être élevés ou faibles. Si votre niveau d'AFP est élevé ou faible, d'autres tests seront effectués. Ces tests peuvent comprendre :

- Un autre test AFP
- Une image de votre bébé, prise à l'aide d'ondes sonores appelées ultrasons
- Un test, appelé amniocentèse, permettant de contrôler le liquide entourant votre bébé
- Un entretien génétique permettant d'évaluer le résultat des tests

Le résultat des tests est envoyé à votre médecin. Votre médecin discutera des résultats avec vous.

Parlez à votre médecin ou à votre infirmière si vous avez des questions ou des inquiétudes.

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