

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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Prueba AFP (Alfa-fetoproteína)

La prueba AFP se utiliza para determinar si hay defectos de nacimiento en su bebé. La AFP es una proteína producida por su bebé durante el embarazo. La misma pasa a través de su sangre. Para determinar los niveles de AFP, se toma una muestra de su sangre. Si los niveles de AFP son altos o bajos, su bebé podría tener defectos de nacimiento.

La prueba no causa daño alguno ni a usted ni a su bebé. La misma solamente puede determinar la presencia de algunos defectos de nacimiento. Hable con su médico acerca de hacerse esta prueba. Usted puede elegir no hacerse la prueba.

¿Qué significan los resultados de la prueba?

Si su fecha de parto ha cambiado o está embarazada de gemelos, sus resultados podrían ser altos o bajos. Si su nivel de AFP es alto o bajo, se le realizarán más pruebas.

Estas pruebas podrían incluir:

- Una repetición de la prueba AFP
- Una fotografía de su bebé tomada utilizando ondas de sonido que se denomina ultrasonido
- Una prueba para verificar los fluidos al rededor de su bebé que se denomina amniocentesis
- Una consulta con un especialista en genética para analizar los resultados de la prueba

Los resultados son enviados a su médico, quien los analizará con usted.

Hable con su médico o enfermera si tiene alguna pregunta o duda.

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AFP (Alpha-Fetoprotein) Test. Spanish