

Amniocentesis

Amniocentesis is a test of amniotic fluid. This fluid is around your baby in your uterus. The doctor will remove a small sample of the fluid with a needle. This test checks your baby for birth defects.

There are some risks with this test:

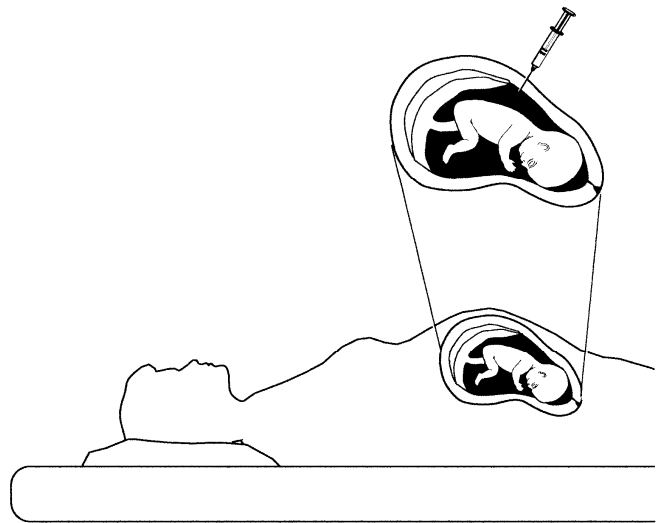
- A leak or infection of the amniotic fluid
- The needle touching the baby
- Early delivery
- Miscarriage

Talk to your doctor about these risks.

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

During the Test

- You will wear a hospital gown.
- You lie on your back with your stomach uncovered.
- Your stomach is washed.
- Your doctor uses 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 takes out a small sample of the fluid and removes the needle. The needle is in for less than 1 minute.
- A monitor is placed on your stomach for 15 to 30 minutes to check your baby's heartbeat.
- Your doctor will get your test results in about 2 weeks. Your doctor will share the results with you.



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.