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.

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