

Amniocentesis

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET



Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please see our website for more branch details.

Duration of examination:

An amniocentesis usually takes 30 minutes.

Please bring with you:

- > Your request form
- > All previous relevant imaging
- > Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call our Ashford branch on 8297 0588.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

Benson
radiology

Experience Precision Care

What is an amniocentesis?

Amniocentesis is a test performed at around 16 weeks of pregnancy. It is used to diagnose chromosomal abnormalities such as Down Syndrome. It involves passing a needle into the uterus and taking a small sample of the amniotic fluid surrounding the developing baby.

The cells in the fluid can be used to investigate the baby's chromosomes and test for chromosome disorders. The test will also determine the baby's sex.

Amniocentesis is an invasive procedure, meaning that it requires placing a needle into the amniotic sac. This carries a risk of approximately 1:200 of causing a miscarriage as a result of the test. You will need to weigh up the risks of amniocentesis compared to the risk of an abnormality, and the benefits of the information gained from the test.

What will happen during the examination?

You will first have a short ultrasound to confirm the age of the baby and position of the placenta.

The skin on the abdomen is cleaned with an antiseptic solution. As a sterile procedure and under ultrasound guidance, a thin needle is inserted into the amniotic fluid surrounding the baby.

Preparing for the procedure takes around 20 minutes, but once organised, collecting the fluid takes only a minute or so. Around 10-15 mls of amniotic fluid is required for chromosomal analysis. Slightly more may be required if other tests are also requested.

After the procedure, the baby's heart beat is checked. You will be asked to initial the amniotic fluid sample and confirm your details on the label. If you have Rhesus Negative Blood Group, it will be necessary for you to have an injection of Anti D following the procedure.

We ask you to remain in the department for 15-30 minutes to ensure you are feeling fine.

You will be capable of driving yourself home after the test, but it would be preferable to have someone accompany you and drive you home.

Post-procedure care

It is advised that you rest in bed following your procedure. If you care for young children, it is wise to have someone support you for the day of your examination.

No intercourse, gym work, strenuous exercise, or heavy lifting for 2 weeks.

You may experience a small amount of cramping pain, a little like period pain, this is not uncommon and is not of concern. Significant discomfort is not expected.

If you experience any of the following, or have concerns, please contact the department or your obstetrician directly.

- > significant discomfort
- > gushes of fluid, or leaking fluid from the vagina
- > vaginal bleeding
- > uterine pain or tenderness
- > feeling generally unwell
- > offensive vaginal discharge

If problems occur after hours, contact the labour ward where you are booked to deliver for telephone advice.

Results

Amniocentesis results may take up to 3 weeks before they are available, although the time frame is usually between 11 to 14 days. "FISH" results for amniocentesis, if you choose to have this test are available in 48 working hours. On rare occasions a sample of amniotic fluid may not be obtained, or the cells may not grow and we may need to offer you the test again.

Your referring doctor will give you your results directly when they become available. Results are not available through Benson Radiology.