

The Fetal Medicine Centre

*Information for patients on
Fetal Blood Sampling*



**Birmingham Women's Health Care
NHS Trust**

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**Fetal Blood Sampling is a test in which a
small sample of blood is taken from your
baby and examined in the laboratory**

The Fetal Blood Sampling test will be performed in the Fetal Medicine Centre by an experienced doctor. A second clinician will assist and a midwife will also be present. A relative or friend may be with you if you wish.

You will be asked to sign a consent form before the procedure.

The baby's blood sample can be obtained from a blood vessel in the umbilical cord or a small blood vessel in the baby's abdomen. The doctor will carefully scan the baby beforehand to establish which method would be best.

The doctor will clean the skin of your abdomen with antiseptic fluid and then pass a needle through the skin into the uterus. You will be scanned continuously during the procedure.

When the needle is positioned the assisting doctor will draw a small sample of blood into a syringe and this will be taken to the laboratory.

It is sometimes necessary to repeat the procedure in order to obtain a satisfactory sample.

As with any procedure of this nature there is a risk of causing a miscarriage. This is probably in the region of 1% or 1 in 100.

After the test you may go home as soon as you wish. It is advisable to rest for the remainder of the day, you should try to avoid strenuous exercise.

The results from the blood test, when we are checking the baby's chromosomes, are usually available in 5 - 7 days. We may also carry out other tests on the baby's blood, and these will be available at varying times. We will contact you by telephone as soon as any of the results are ready.

If you have any worries after the test please ring the Fetal Medicine Centre, where one of the midwife specialists will be happy to help you.

The fetal chromosomes can be obtained from other tests such as amniocentesis and placental biopsy. The doctor or midwife will discuss these options with you and the comparable risks and benefits of each one.

If you have any questions before your appointment please contact us:

Telephone: 0121 627 2683

Email: fetalmedicine@uhb.nhs.uk

Further information about the Fetal Medicine Centre and our annual report can be found on our website:

www.fetalmedicinebirmingham.co.uk