



POST-AMNIOCENTESIS INFORMATION SHEET

Please be sure to read this handout on your return home and to retain it for further reference.

The test you have just had, amniocentesis, is done by inserting a fine needle through the abdomen into the amniotic fluid sac which surrounds the baby to obtain a sample of the fluid. Two tests are done on the fluid:

1. The cells in the fluid are grown in the laboratory and the fetal chromosomes are examined.
2. The amount of protein is measured to detect spinal or abdominal defects (i.e. open spina bifida).

It is normal to have mild cramping for the first 12-14 hours after amniocentesis. If you have a FEVER, SEVER PAIN or CRAMPING, VAGINAL BLEEDING or loss of AMNIOTIC FLUID (clear fluid leaking from the vagina, please contact the Maternal Fetal Medicine Office Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 604-930-7884

At all other times: Contact the Obstetrician on Call @ 604-897-2161

The doctor who performed your procedure was Dr. _____

As a precaution we recommend you rest today, avoid heavy lifting, strenuous exercise and sexual intercourse. You can return to your normal activity level tomorrow. Studies show that the risk of miscarriage following amniocentesis is small - about 1 in 200.

Rarely, the test may need to be repeated because not enough fluid is obtained, the cells fail to grow in the laboratory, or the results are uncertain. Sometimes a blood sample from both you and your partner needs to be taken to compare the baby's and your chromosomes. This is usually because of a normal variation in the chromosomes.

For the above reasons, we must be able to readily contact you. In the event of abnormal results, you and your doctor would be contacted immediately and the arrangements made for follow-up. Normal results are sent to your doctor's office in 2-3 weeks.

We understand that the decision to have this test done is not always easy, and it is normal to be worried until you know the results. Remember, the majority of results are normal and you will be able to look forward to your baby reassured by this knowledge.

PLEASE NOTE

It is recommended that you have a detailed ultrasound after 18 weeks gestation.