



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Amniocentesis and Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) testing

Information for those
undergoing these tests.

This leaflet explains what to do after your procedure, what risks you need to be aware of and when to expect your results. If you are unsure about anything then please call the triage line on 0118 322 7304. This 24-hour line will direct you to the correct area depending on the time of day.

What should you do following the test?

Additional tests can be very stressful, especially the waiting for results. It is important to look after yourself and rest as much as you need.

- For 48 hours after the test, it is not necessary to go to bed but choose low impact activities and avoid strenuous physical exercise, such as jogging or any heavy lifting.
- We recommend that you do not fly in the 48 hours after either test.
- You may feel sore or bruised where the needle was inserted. This is not unusual or worrying and you can take the recommended dose of paracetamol if you need to.

What risks do you need to be aware of?

There is a risk of less than 1 in 1,000 that CVS or amniocentesis will cause a serious infection. You should call the triage line on 0118 322 7304 straight away if you experience any of the following symptoms. This 24-hour line will direct you to the correct area, depending on the time of day.

- persistent or severe pain
- a high temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or more
- chills or shivering
- heavy vaginal bleeding
- discharge or sudden loss of clear fluid from the vagina
- contractions

Bleeding or leaking does not always mean that you are experiencing complications, but it is advisable to be seen in the hospital.

There is a risk of miscarriage (about 1 in 200) after these procedures, we do not know why they happen, and it can happen within 3 days or up to 2 weeks afterwards. There is nothing that can be done to prevent a miscarriage after a CVS or amniocentesis.

When should you expect your results?

Routine amniocentesis and CVS results generally take 3-4 working days (Monday to Friday). This does mean if you have a test on a Friday, it may be the following Thursday before you receive the results. You will receive a phone call so please make sure we have the best contact number for you.

It is not always possible to get a result from the first CVS or amniocentesis. Up to 6 in 100 women (6%) will be offered a second procedure. If this happens the screening midwives will be in touch.

Useful contacts

If you are unsure about anything then please call or text the screening midwives, who are available Mon to Fri 8am – 4pm on 07768 752 563

Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC) can give you impartial information and support to help you decide on your next steps. Their trained staff are available on the helpline, via email and text - Helpline 020 7713 7486 or text 07908 683004 (Mon – Fri 10am to 5.30pm) or email info@arc-uk.org to arrange an evening call (Tuesday and Thursday: 8-10pm).

You can also visit their website at www.arc-uk.org

References

- Screening in pregnancy: CVS and amniocentesis information for parents (GOV.UK)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cvs-and-amniocentesis-diagnostic-tests-description-in-brief/nhs-fetal-anomaly-screening-programme-chorionic-villus-sampling-cvs-and-amniocentesis-information-for-parents>

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Screening Team Midwives, March 2018

Reviewed: September 2024

Next review due: September 2026