

Invitation for growth scan at 28 weeks

This is a letter of invitation for growth scans later in your pregnancy. You are being invited for these scans because your screening result for Down's, Edward's and Patau's Syndromes found a low level of PAPP-A

What is PAPP-A?

Pregnancy associated plasma protein A (PAPP-A) is a hormone that is produced by the placenta (after birth) in pregnancy. Your baby's placenta produces PAPP-A and you cannot influence the level of PAPP-A in your blood your baby produces.

PAPP-A is one of the two hormones that are measured during the 12 week combined screening test. If your baby has an increased risk for Down's syndrome, Edwards Syndrome or Patau's Syndrome, one of the screening midwives will have contacted you before sending you this leaflet.

Some studies have shown that low PAPP-A may sometime be associated with small babies. Because of this, national guidelines suggest that extra scans should be considered to check the growth of babies when a low PAPP-A level has been found.

When will I have the growth scan?

We will ask you to come to the Maternity Ultrasound Scan Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital at around 28 weeks of pregnancy. As well as checking the baby's growth, the sonographer (person performing the ultrasound scan) will check the blood flow through the placenta (after-birth) and the amniotic fluid (water) levels. After the ultrasound scan of your baby, you will come to Antenatal Clinic to discuss the findings. If your baby is growing well and the fluid volume is normal, you will be invited for ultrasound scan appointments every 4 weeks to continue to monitor your baby's growth. If there continues to be no concerns during the subsequent ultrasound scans you will not need to attend the Antenatal Clinic.

If there are any concerns about your baby's growth or wellbeing you may need more frequent scans and antenatal clinic appointments. We will offer these appointments to you as appropriate for your situation.

As the ultrasound is a clinical examination children are not allowed in the ultrasound room.

Is there anything I can do help my baby to grow well?

If you smoke, it is extremely important that you stop. Smoking can affect the placenta and your baby's growth. Your midwife can refer you for help to stop smoking or you can refer yourself to Smoke Free Life Berkshire 0800 622 6360 or TEXT 66777.

Useful numbers

If you wish to discuss this further prior to your appointment please contact the screening midwives 0118 322 7292 / 8507.

If you wish to change your appointment date or time please call the appointments line 0118 322 8964.

Further information

RCOG SGA guideline link

https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/guidelines/gtg_31.pdf

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

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Approved: Maternity Information Group & Patient Information Manager, November 2018

Review due: November 2020