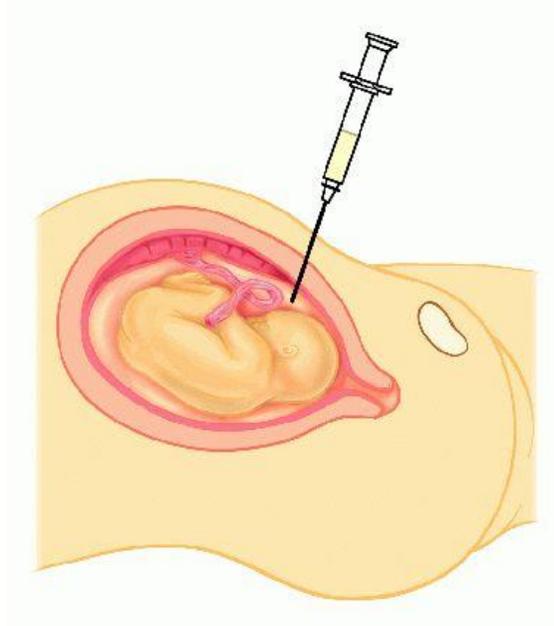


Amniocentesis

What is an amniocentesis?

An amniocentesis is a sampling of the amniotic fluid in the sac that surrounds the baby. Ultrasound is used to verify the location of the most fluid and to help the physician guide the needle safely into it.



How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer will apply warm gel to your lower abdomen and place the transducer against your skin to take pictures. When the sound waves reflect back to the transducer from inside the body, an image is created on the screen. Ultrasound does NOT use radiation.

How should I prepare for an amniocentesis?

- You should contact your obstetrics office before the procedure for instructions and they will answer any questions you may
- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and comfortable to wear in a bed

How long will it take?

- 45 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- Fetal lung maturity
- Abnormal fetal screening tests
- Other

What will happen during the exam?

Before the procedure, you will have an ultrasound exam of your baby. You will lie on the bed and will need to remove your clothing covering the area that needs to be scanned. The sonographer will apply warm gel onto your abdomen and then he/she will place the transducer on your skin. By moving the position of the camera they will obtain the images needed for the exam.

What will happen during the procedure?

You will lie on the bed on your back. Your OB doctor will clean the area of your tummy where the needle will go in. The radiologist (ultrasound doctor) will use the ultrasound to help guide the needle into the amniotic fluid. It takes just a couple minutes to obtain the sample of the fluid and then the needle is removed.

How do I get the results of the exam?

The results of the procedure will go to the doctor who ordered and performed the procedure. Most of these results are available within a few hours; however, some may take longer.