



AFP (Alpha-Fetoprotein)

What is measured in an Alpha-Fetoprotein (AFP) screening test?

Four substances are measured in the pregnant women's blood: AFP, which is produced by the baby's liver; unconjugated estriol, which is produced by the placenta; human chorionic gonadotropin, also produced by the placenta; and inhibin A. All four levels, in combination with the maternal age, are used to estimate the risk of a chromosome problem. AFP alone is used to assess the risk of neural tube defect.

What does a negative test results mean?

This is a reassuring result which means the risk of neural tube defect is less than 1 per 1000 and the risk of Down's Syndrome is less than 1 per 250. Depending on your age, it is possible to get a slightly increased risk assessment for Down's Syndrome and still get a negative result.

What does a positive test result mean?

This means the risk of Down's Syndrome or a neural tube defect is increased. The most likely explanation for positive results are:

- Normal variations in blood levels
- The pregnancy is less advanced or further advanced than was thought
- It is a twin or multiple pregnancy
- There is a chance of a neural tube defect or a chromosomal problem

About 4% of all women screened will have a positive result. Most of these women will have normal, healthy babies; however, further tests such as ultrasound and amniocentesis may be indicated. If the test results are positive, you will receive further information from your provider and perhaps from a genetic counselor.

What are the most important things to remember?

There are no tests in pregnancy which provide a 100% guarantee of a normal outcome, but chances are in your favor, even with an increased risk assessment, of having a healthy baby.

Please see the information below for scheduling an appointment.

OB/GYN Appointment / Nurse Line: [\(763\) 587-7916](tel:7635877916)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5pm

Tuesday: Plymouth Office has extended hours until 8pm

Thursdays: Crystal Office has extended hours until 8pm

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5109 36th Ave. N.
Crystal, MN 55422

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www.voyagehealthcare.com