

Maternity

Low pregnancy associated plasma protein A (PAPP-A)

Your recent combined screening test for Down's syndrome, combined Edwards and Patau's Syndrome has detected a low PAPP-A.

What is PAPP-A?

Pregnancy associated plasma protein A (PAPP-A) is a hormone that is produced by the placenta in pregnancy. It is one of two hormones that are measured during the combined screening test for Down's, Edwards and Patau's Syndrome.

What does a low PAPP-A mean?

Studies have shown that low levels of PAPP-A (less than 0.4MoM) may be associated with:

- A lower birth weight baby.
- An increased chance of an early birth.
- Miscarriage in the second half of pregnancy.
- Increased chance of developing pre-eclampsia.

What happens now?

To try and prevent some of these problems developing, a letter has been sent to your GP to inform him/her of your result. We have requested him/her to issue you with a prescription for Aspirin, which is the recommended treatment and should be taken as directed by your GP or midwife until your baby is delivered.



Patient Information

In addition to this you will be offered growth ultrasound scans to monitor the growth of your baby, check the fluid volume around your baby and to check the blood flow through the placenta. You will be seen by an Obstetrician after each of these scans.

If no problems are found and there are no other pregnancy/medical complications, all birth options will be available to you, including birthing in our Midwifery Led Unit.

What can I do to help?

It is well known that smoking can affect the function of the placenta and therefore affect baby's growth. If you are a smoker your midwife will refer you to our dedicated Smoking Cessation service to offer you support and help throughout your pregnancy.

Who can I speak to for further information?

Receiving news that you have a low PAPP-A may cause anxiety. Please be reassured that in most cases, no problems develop.

You can contact your Community Midwife for advice or telephone the Antenatal Screening team at UHCW on 024 7696 7412 to speak to one of our screening midwives.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please ask staff and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

Department:	Maternity
Contact:	27412
Updated:	August 2022
Review:	August 2025
Version:	1.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2570/21