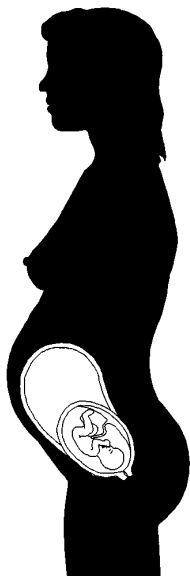




# Prenatal Testing

There are many tests available to doctors for measuring fetal health and development. A standard blood test, urinalysis, Pap smear and diabetes screening are most commonly performed sometime during your pregnancy. If you're over 35 or you or your baby are at risk, other tests may be performed. If you have questions about these tests, talk with your doctor.



TEST	WHAT IT TESTS FOR:	WHEN IS IT DONE?	HOW IS IT DONE?
<b>amniocentesis</b>	chromosomal and genetic disorders; Down syndrome; hemophilia; sickle-cell anemia; the baby's sex	generally for women 35 and older, between 13 and 16 weeks of pregnancy	The amniotic fluid is drawn from a needle inserted into the abdomen.
<b>alpha-fetoprotein</b>	spina bifida and other open-neural-tube defects; risk of Down syndrome	between the 15th and 18th weeks of pregnancy	blood test
<b>standard blood test</b>	your blood count, blood type and blood sugar levels; HIV antibodies; sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis; sickle-cell anemia; thalassemia (a rare blood disorder); Tay-Sachs disease	first prenatal visit	blood test
<b>chorionic villus sampling (CVS)</b>	Down syndrome or other genetic disorders	between nine and 12 weeks of pregnancy	A needle is inserted into the uterus through the vagina to test cells from the placenta.
<b>diabetes screening</b>	gestational diabetes	about 28 weeks of pregnancy	Before and after you drink a special sugary solution, your blood sugar level is measured by a blood test.
<b>Pap smear</b>	early signs of cervical cancer	usually during an early prenatal exam	The cells of the cervix are tested during a vaginal exam.
<b>ultrasound</b>	the baby's growth, size and development	anytime during pregnancy	A device placed on the outside of your abdomen uses ultrasonic waves to show a "picture" of the fetus.
<b>nonstress test (NST)</b>	signs of poor blood circulation or decreased oxygen to the fetus	last 12 weeks of pregnancy	A machine monitors and records the fetal heart rate for about 30 minutes.
<b>urinalysis</b>	diabetes; toxemia	often at each prenatal visit	A urine test measures the levels of sugar and protein in the urine.