Raised Beta hCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin) results in pregnancy

You are receiving this information leaflet with an accompanying letter for an appointment with your consultant, as one of the pregnancy hormones called Beta hCG levels in your blood test have been found to be raised.

What is Beta hCG?

At University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, all eligible pregnant women are offered first trimester screening tests. Part of this screening involves taking a blood sample to analyse for the pregnancy hormone hCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin), and a pregnancy protein called PAPP-A (Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein-A).

Beta hCG is a pregnancy hormone that is tested as a part of the first trimester screening that you consented to have.

Your chance of having a baby affected with Down's, Edwards', or Patau's syndromes is calculated using your age and:
• The measurement of the fluid at the back of your baby's neck, known as the nuchal translucency (NT), which is done during your early pregnancy dating scan.

• The levels of the two pregnancy hormones (beta hCG and PAPP-A), which are analysed via a blood test at the dating scan appointment.

Based on the above, your screening test result for Down's, Edward's, or Patau's syndrome has been reported as low risk. However, the level of the Beta hCG hormone is slightly higher than average. **This does not mean that your baby has an increased chance of having Down's, Edward's, or Patau's syndrome.**

Why is Beta hCG important?

Studies have shown that raised Beta hCG may be associated with reduced placental function and associated with babies with a lower birth weight. Because of this, national guidelines suggest that extra scans should be considered to check the growth of your baby when a raised Beta hCG level has been found. It is your choice whether you wish to accept or decline extra growth scans, you can request further information or talk to a healthcare professional to help you make an informed decision. Whether you accept or decline extra scans, you can change your mind at any point.

What happens next?

We suggest that you have an appointment with your consultant, where they may recommend you to take 150mg aspirin once a day (low dose) from 12 weeks of pregnancy until the birth of the baby. There is some evidence from research trials to suggest that aspirin improves the way in which the placenta works to help the baby grow. placental function.

If you consent, we will arrange regular scans to monitor the baby's growth and well-being throughout your pregnancy. We will send you letters inviting you to these scanning appointments.

Information for Patients

If you were previously booked under low-risk midwifery-led care, you will be transferred to consultant-led care. You can request an appointment with a consultant midwife to discuss your birth options and a personalised care plan, should you wish. If you consent, regular growth scans and appointments will be arranged, if these are not already planned during your pregnancy.

The scans will be offered monthly starting from around when you are 28 weeks pregnant. This allows us to assess whether your baby is continuing to grow to its full potential. We will arrange for a consultant clinic review appointment at 36 weeks.

It is important that you also continue to see your community midwife at regular intervals to ensure your pregnancy is progressing well. If your community midwife has any concerns, she will discuss this with you, you will be referred to the hospital sooner to monitor the health of you and your baby.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Antenatal and Newborn Screening Team on 0121 424 0928.

Department address and contact information:

Please include address where appropriate along with contact telephone numbers if not already captured in the information above.

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk