



LOW PAPP-A (Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein A) Result 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 PAPP-A levels in your blood test have been found to be low.

What is PAPP-A?

PAPP-A is a pregnancy hormone that is tested as a part of the first trimester screening that you have chosen to have.

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).

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 (Free beta hCG and PAPP-A), which is by 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 PAPP-A hormone is slightly lower than average.

This does not mean that your baby is at a higher chance of having Down's, Edward's or Patau's syndrome.

Why is PAPP-A important?

Studies have shown that low PAPP-A may be associated with lower birth weight babies and need for earlier deliveries. Because of this, national guidelines suggest that extra scans should be considered to check the growth of your baby/ies when a low PAPP-A level has been found.

What happens next?

We advise that you have an appointment with your consultant, where they may advise you to take 150mg Aspirin once a day (low dose) from 12 weeks of pregnancy until the birth of the baby.

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. Regular growth scans and appointments will be arranged, if not already planned during your pregnancy.

The scans will be offered monthly starting from around when you are 28 week's 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, you will be referred to the hospital sooner.

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

Reference:

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)
Green Top Guideline 31 Small for gestational age fetus, investigation and management

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Heartlands Hospital	0121 424 0928/0730
Solihull Hospital	0121 424 4382
Good Hope Hospital	0121 424 9622

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 patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk.