

How accurate is the fetal fibronectin test?

Among women with symptoms of labor:

- 99.2% of women with a negative fFN test (124 out of 125) will not deliver their babies within 2 weeks of the test.
- About 17% of women (1 out of 6) with a positive fFN test result will deliver preterm within 2 weeks of the test.

Among women without symptoms of preterm labor (asymptomatic):

- 96.3% of women with a negative test obtained at 24 weeks' gestation will not deliver before 35 weeks.
- 31.7% of women (1 out of 3) with a positive test obtained at 24 weeks' gestation will deliver before the 35th week of pregnancy.

What does a negative test result mean?

If your doctor or nurse midwife determines you are currently exhibiting signs or symptoms of premature labor, a negative fFN test means that there is a very good chance that you will not deliver within 14 days of taking the test.

For patients who are not currently exhibiting symptoms of preterm labor, but who may be at risk based on certain medical, lifestyle, behavioral, cultural, or demographic factors, a negative fFN test means there is a high probability you will not deliver before 35 weeks gestation.

What does a positive test result mean?

The answer to this question depends on a number of factors. If you are still in the early stages of premature labor, your caregivers may take steps to help your pregnancy continue in a healthy and safe way. You may be told to stay in bed, either in the hospital or at home, and to increase your fluid intake. You may be given tocolytic drugs which help slow down contractions, or other medications, such as antibiotics. However, you may still be at risk for preterm delivery, because 1 out of 6 women with a positive fFN result delivers within 14 days.

When premature labor is diagnosed early and treatment is successful in stopping contractions, you may be allowed to go home from the hospital. It is still very important for you to follow your caregivers' instructions and be alert for signs that labor is starting.

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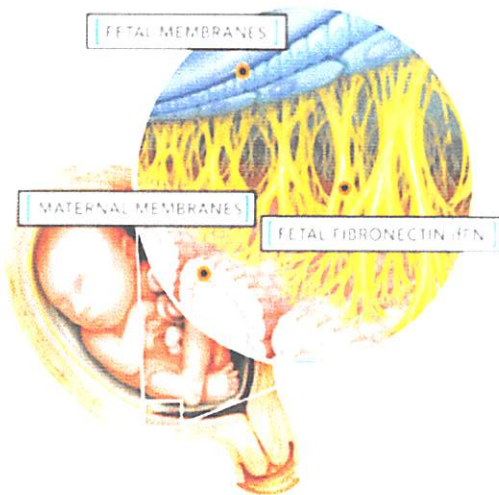


Fetal Fibronectin

*The facts you
need to know.....*

What is fetal fibronectin?

Fetal fibronectin (also known as fFN) is a “glue-like” protein that bonds your developing baby to your uterus. Fetal fibronectin is detectable in vaginal secretions in the very beginning of pregnancy, when this bond is first forming, and then again at the end of pregnancy, when your body is getting ready to deliver your baby. If fFN leaks from the uterus and more than a small amount shows up in the vagina too early (between 24 and 34 weeks), it may mean that the glue is disintegrating ahead of schedule because of contractions or an injury to the membranes.



Fetal fibronectin is a “glue-like” protein that holds the developing baby in the womb.

What is The Fetal Fibronectin test?

The fetal fibronectin test measures the presence of fetal fibronectin. The fFN test assesses a women’s cervicovaginal secretions to detect the amount of fetal fibronectin present. With this simple test, your doctor or midwife can tell if your body may be getting ready for delivery, even before you feel any of the symptoms.

Why is the test important?

You and your caregivers want to know if you might deliver prematurely. This test will be used along with other indicators or signs of premature labor to help determine whether special care is needed. The presence of fFN during weeks 24-34 along with symptoms of labor, alerts health care providers to a possibility of preterm delivery. Your doctor or nurse midwife may recommend taking steps to stop premature labor.

How is the test performed?

The fetal fibronectin test, is a safe, reliable, non-invasive test (similar to a Pap test) performed between 24 and 34 weeks gestation. With the use of a speculum, your healthcare provider will use a special swab (similar to a Q-tip) to collect a small amount of secretions from the cervix. The procedure needs to be done before a vaginal exam is performed or 24 hrs after intercourse. The sample is then sent to the lab where either a positive or negative result is given.

How long will it take to get the results?

Most often the test samples are performed here at OSF laboratories and report results within the hour.

Is the fetal fibronectin test safe?

Yes. Fetal fibronectin has been studied in more than 100 published clinical articles worldwide, involving more than 10,000 patients. fFN helps your doctor or nurse midwife intervene as early as possible when and if there is a risk of preterm delivery.