



Tests During Pregnancy

The following is a list of the tests you might have during the pregnancy.

Test	What the Test Does	When
Blood Tests	Checks blood type, RH factor, screens for anemia, checks for immunity to rubella (German measles), and tests for hepatitis B, syphilis, and HIV. Depending on racial, ethnic, or family background, you may be offered tests and genetic counseling to assess risks for diseases such as Tay-Sachs, cystic fibrosis, and sickle cell anemia. Checks for exposure to diseases such as toxoplasmosis and varicella (the virus that causes chickenpox). Test your levels of hCG, progesterone a hormone secreted by the placenta.	First Trimester
Urine Tests	Checks for kidney infection and, if necessary, to confirm your pregnancy by measuring the level of hCG. (A blood hCG test to confirm pregnancy may be used instead). Used to detect glucose (a sign of diabetes) and albumin (a protein that may indicate preeclampsia, which is pregnancy-induced high blood pressure)	First Trimester and Regularly Throughout Pregnancy
Cervical Swabs	Checks for cervical cancer, chlamydia, gonorrhea and bacterial vaginosis (an infection that can cause preterm birth)	First Trimester
Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)	(optional, age 35+) genetic defects, such as Down syndrome, sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and muscular dystrophy	10-12 weeks of pregnancy
Maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein (MSAFP) and multiple marker screening	Measures the level of alpha-fetoprotein (a protein produced by the fetus. Abnormal levels indicate the possibility (but not existence) of Down syndrome or a neural tube defect such as spina bifida, which can then be confirmed by ultrasound or amniocentesis).	16 to 18 weeks
Ultrasounds	Used to verify due date, check for multiple fetuses, investigate complications such as placenta previa (a low-lying	16 to 18 weeks

placenta) or slow fetal growth, or detecting malformations like cleft palate.

Glucose screening	Tests for pregnancy-induced diabetes	24 to 28 weeks
Group B streptococcus screening	Group B strep (common in 30% of healthy women) is a cause of life-threatening infections in newborns and can also cause mental retardation, impaired vision, and hearing loss. If positive, you will be treated with antibiotics to decrease the chances that you do not pass Group B to your baby during delivery.	35 to 37 weeks
Fetal Doppler ultrasound	Can determine if blood flow to the placenta and fetus is normal	2nd Trimester
Amniocentesis (optional)	Used to detect neural tube defects and genetic disorders	15 to 18 weeks
Nonstress Test	Measure the baby's heart rate as it moves	Weekly or twice weekly in selected high-risk pregnancies
Biophysical profile	Combines a nonstress test with an ultrasound for a more accurate evaluation of the baby	Third Trimester