

AFP (Alpha-Fetoprotein) Test

AFP is a test used to check for birth defects in your baby. AFP is a protein made by your baby during pregnancy. It passes into your blood. To test AFP levels, a blood sample is taken from you. If the AFP level is high or low, your baby may have a birth defect.

The test causes no harm to you or to your baby. It can only test for some birth defects. Talk to your doctor about having this test. You can choose to not have this test.

What do the test results mean?

If your due date has changed or you are carrying twins, your result may be high or low. If your AFP level is high or low, there will be more tests. These tests may include:

- A repeat of the AFP test
- A picture of your baby using sound waves called an ultrasound
- A test to check the fluid around your baby called amniocentesis
- Genetic counseling to review your test results

Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.