



PATIENT INFORMATION

PAPP-A Patient Information

What is it?

PAPP-A (Pregnancy associated plasma protein –A) is produced by the placenta and the decidua. It is needed to facilitate the implantation process and to maintain healthy vascularisation of the placenta and the placental bed. It is also involved in the prevention of an antibody response to the fetus by the maternal immune system. Low levels of PAPP-A may cause placental dysfunction and lead to the following adverse outcomes:

- Mid trimester miscarriage
- Fetal growth restriction
- Intrauterine fetal death
- Preterm birth
- Preeclampsia

How is it detected?

PAPP-A is one of the biochemical markers used in the first trimester screening process for Down's syndrome. The level of PAPP-A is reported on as part of the result, but it has not previously been acted upon unless the woman was found to be in the higher risk range with a PAPP-A of less than 0.4 MoM. From 01/11/15 the laboratory has flagged any woman irrespective of her screening result who is found to have a level of less than 0.415 MoM.

How is it managed?

All women will be under consultant led care and the intermediate payment pathway on STORK. They should follow the primip schedule of antenatal care in order for their blood pressure and symphysis – fundal height to be monitored more regularly. Women with levels between 0.21 – 0.40 MoM will be offered growth scans at 30 and 36 weeks.

Those with a level equal to or less than 0.2MoM are considered to be at a higher risk of a poorer outcome and will be offered more frequent scans and induction of labour at term.