

# L PAPP-A

---

## What is PAPP-A?

PAPP-A stands for Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein A, this is a protein produced by the placenta (afterbirth) and is measurable in a mother's bloodstream. Your PAPP-A has been measured in the combined first trimester screening to help calculate the chance of your baby having Downs, Edwards or Patau syndrome.

You will also be offered extra scans to check on the growth of your baby. If the measurements by your midwife suggest your baby may be small, further scans may be arranged.

If your baby is found to be smaller than expected, you will have an appointment in a consultant antenatal clinic to discuss the results and mbabyooqto5 T

## What is PAPP-A important?

In most cases, PAPP-A does not have an impact on your pregnancy, but there is research to suggest that a lower level of PAPP-A (less than 0.41 MoM) may be associated with:

- A lower birth-weight baby due to the placenta not working as well.
- An increased chance of developing pre-eclampsia.
- An early birth.

## What does this mean for my pregnancy?

To help try and prevent some of these problems developing, it is recommended that you take aspirin (150mg daily, with your evening meal) from 12 weeks (or as soon as possible, if result found after 12 weeks) until 36 weeks.

From 26-28 weeks, at each visit your midwife will routinely measure the height of your uterus and record it on your customised growth chart. She will also check your blood pressure and your urine sample for signs of protein (this may indicate pre-eclampsia developing).

Please speak with your Community Midwife if you have further questions. You may also contact the Fetal Maternal Assessment Unit (FMAU) Midwives on 01392 406540, if you have further questions.

The Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists has information available which can be found here :

- [www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/patient-information-leaflets/pregnancy/pi-having-a-small-baby.pdf](http://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/patient-information-leaflets/pregnancy/pi-having-a-small-baby.pdf)
- [www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/patient-information-leaflets/pregnancy/pi-pre-eclampsia.pdf](http://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/patient-information-leaflets/pregnancy/pi-pre-eclampsia.pdf)
- [www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/patient-information-leaflets/pregnancy/pi-smoking-and-pregnancy-2.pdf](http://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/patients/patient-information-leaflets/pregnancy/pi-smoking-and-pregnancy-2.pdf)

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

**R a D e a d e e NHS F d a T**

Designed by Graphics (Print & Design), RD&E