



Pre-eclampsia in pregnancy

Patient information Leaflet

November 2019

What is pre-eclampsia?

Pre-eclampsia is a condition that affects a small percentage of women during pregnancy and is a result of the placenta not working as it should. Symptoms include headaches, swelling, visual disturbances and high blood pressure. Pre-eclampsia can be harmful for the mother and baby and it is important that it is detected early. A test that measures protein in the blood (PIGF and sFlt-1) is now available and can identify those at risk of developing pre-eclampsia.

Why do I need a test?

Your doctor will use the results of the blood test, together with blood pressure, urinary protein and account of your other symptoms, to provide the best possible care for you and your baby.

How will the sample be taken for the test?

A small volume of blood will be taken from your arm, known as a venous sample.

How long will the test take?

Your blood sample will be sent to the laboratory for analysis. Your doctor will usually receive the results of the test within a couple of hours, during which time you will either be asked to wait in the hospital or sent home. The doctor will contact you with the results and explain these to you.

What happens if the test is positive?

If your PIGF and sFlt-1 ratio test indicate an increased risk of pre-eclampsia then your doctor will use this information, along with other factors, to suggest how to manage the condition in the safest way for your pregnancy. This could be more regular visits to your community midwife or possibly admission to hospital for observation.

What happens if the test is negative?

If your PIGF and sFlt-1 results and your blood pressure are within normal ranges, then you most likely will be sent home by the doctor. You will be asked to keep an eye on your symptoms and to let your midwife know if anything changes. Your doctor may request that you attend a follow up consultation at a later date.

Is the test accurate?

No diagnostic test is 100% accurate. Your doctor will use the result along with a lot of other information to make the decision about your care and discuss it with you.

Are there any alternative tests?

There are various PIGF-based tests available. All blood test results must be used in combination with blood pressure, urinary protein measurements and other symptoms

If you have any questions you want to ask, you can use this space below to remind you

If you have a visual impairment this leaflet can be made available in bigger print or on audiotape. If you require either of these options please contact the Patient Information Centre on 0161 922 5332

If you require an interpreter, please ask an appropriate person to contact our central booking office between Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm on 0161 922 6991 to arrange this for you.

語言翻譯及病者支持服務 (LIPS):

如果閣下需要翻譯員在您的預約當日幫助您的話 請找一名合適的家庭成員 0161 922 6991 聯絡本中央預約辦事處來您您安排 我們的辦公時間是星期一至星期五 上午 8 時至下午 5 時

Językowo Tłumaczeniowa Usługa Pomocy dla Pacjenta (Language, Interpretation and Patient Support Service LIPS):

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy tłumacza w trakcie swojej wizyty, proszę poprosić odpowiedniego członka rodziny o skontaktowanie się z Centralnym Biurem Zamówień (Central Booking Office), w celu zorganizowania tłumacza pomiędzy poniedziałkiem a piątkiem w godzinach od 08:00 - 17:00 pod numerem 0161 922 6991.

لینگوئج، انٹرپرائٹیشن اینڈ پیسٹنٹ سپورٹ سروس (Lips)

اگر آپ کو اپنی اپائنٹمنٹ کے لئے مترجم کی مدد کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی اپنے خاندان کے کسی موزوں فرد سے کہیں کہ وہ ہمارے سنٹرل بنگ آفس سے پیر سے جمعہ 8.00 بجے صبح سے 5.00 بجے شام کے دوران 0161 922 6991 پر فون کر کے اس کا بندوبست کریں۔

Document control information

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