

Amniocentesis

Sometimes called an 'amnio', this is a minor surgical diagnostic test that allows the doctor to obtain a sample of the amniotic fluid. A long, thin, hollow needle is inserted through the mother's abdomen into the uterus and amniotic fluid. The procedure is almost always performed with ultrasound imaging to guide placement of the needle. The small amount of fluid removed should not affect the baby. It a common way to obtain material for genetic and other testing of the baby. The risk of complications from the procedure are low, but as with any procedure complications can occur. You should have a thorough consultation with your doctor before the procedure is performed. Amniocenteses is usually done after the thirteenth or fourteenth week of pregnancy.