



# Screening for problems with the baby's body

An **easy guide** to screening tests when you are pregnant



## Contents: what is in this booklet

## Page



Your choice

3



About the test

4



Test results

7



## Your choice



This booklet has information about a test you can have.

The test can find problems with your baby before it is born.

If we find a problem we can give you information or tell you what special care the baby may need when he or she is born.



The test cannot find every problem.

You can choose if you want to have the test.



The test results can help you make choices about your care when you are pregnant.

If you are worried, you can talk to your midwife or doctor.



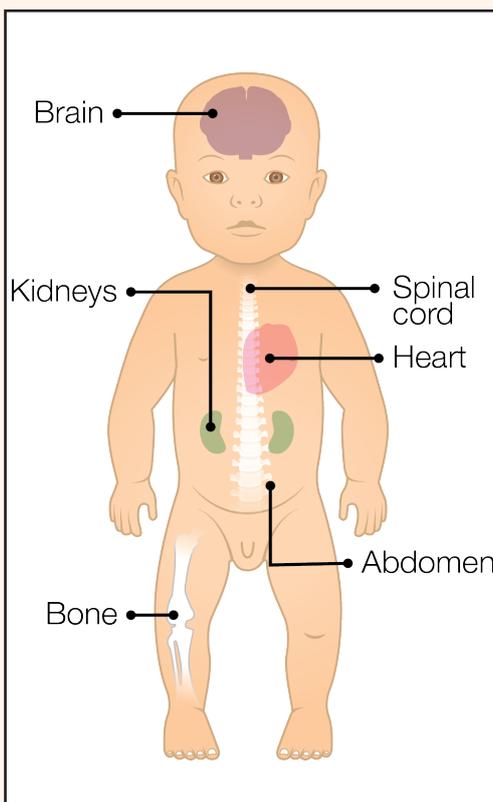
## About the test



We only show the results of the tests to health staff who need to see them.



It is important to tell your midwife or health visitor about any health problems you have.



If you are between 18 and 20 weeks pregnant you can have a scan to look for problems with the baby's:

- bones
- heart
- brain
- spinal cord
- face
- kidneys
- abdomen (tummy)



The test is a scan of the baby taken through your tummy.

You can have the scan if you are between 18 and 20 weeks pregnant.



This is what happens during the test.

1. You lie on a bed.



2. You pull up your top and your skirt or pull your trousers down to your hips. This will leave your tummy bare.



3. A special gel is put on your tummy, which makes sure the scan works well. The gel is sometimes cold.



4. The scanner is pushed over your tummy. It may feel uncomfortable for you.



The scan will give a black and white picture of the baby.  
Most scans show the baby is healthy.



The scan may find problems with the baby.  
You may want someone to come with you for support.



This test will not hurt the baby.



The person doing your scan will tell you what they find.  
Most scans are fine and the baby looks healthy.



## Test results



If there is a chance that the baby has a problem we may ask you to see someone else.

They may either scan you again or give you another test to find out for sure if there is a problem or not.



This test is called a diagnostic test. It has a small chance of about 1 in 100 of making you miscarry.

If you miscarry then the baby does not live.

You will be able to talk about the test with your midwife.

You can say no to this test.



This test may be an amniocentesis.

This means that a very thin needle is put into your tummy.

This takes a tiny bit of fluid from around the baby.

The fluid can be tested for problems.



Some women who are told that there are problems with the baby's body decide to carry on with the pregnancy.

Some women who are told that there are problems with their baby's body decide they do not want to carry on with the pregnancy. They have an abortion. This means the baby does not live.



If there are problems with the baby's body we will give you support to decide whether or not to have an abortion. This is your decision.



It is important to tell your midwife or health visitor if you move home.

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Public Health England leads the NHS Screening Programmes