

Pregnancy testing

Patient information

Pregnancy testing before a procedure

This leaflet gives you information to help you before your operation. It does not replace talking to your doctors or nurses. If you have any worries or questions, please speak to a member of the healthcare team.

Why do we do pregnancy tests?

Some medicines and anaesthetics used during surgery can be less safe if someone is pregnant. People do not always know they are pregnant. These medicines can also sometimes harm a baby in early pregnancy.

Who is offered a test?

We offer a pregnancy test to all women aged 16 to 60 before surgery. You do not need a test if:

- you have had your womb or ovaries removed.
- you have not had a period for a year or more (menopause).

The test is routine. It is not based on your personal life or situation.

What happens?

On the day of your surgery, you will be asked to give a small wee sample. The test only takes a few minutes and will not delay your operation. We will tell you the result straight away.

If you might be pregnant

Please tell a nurse or doctor before your surgery. Your information will stay private. We will offer you a urine pregnancy test. If it is positive, we may do a blood test to confirm. Sometimes very early pregnancy does not show on the first test. If this happens, the doctor will talk with you about the safest plan.

What if I am sure I am not pregnant?

We will not test you without your consent. We ask everyone so we can keep you safe. If you do not want the test, your surgery might be delayed - but not if it is an emergency. You may be asked to sign a form to say you understand your choice.

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