Cordocentesis

Cordocentesis, or PUBS (Percutaneous Umbilical Blood Sampling), is the sampling of blood from the umbilical cord. A needle is put into the mother’s abdomen and the amniotic cavity. It is then guided into the umbilical vein using ultrasound. The procedure is much like amniocentesis except that the goal is to get blood from the fetus rather than amniotic fluid.

About the Test

Cordocentesis is done to get more information when there is a concern about any of the following problems:

- Fetal anemia
- Fetal infection
- Fetal platelet count
- Malformations of the fetus
- Transfusions can also be given to the fetus through the umbilical cord for anemia or low platelet counts.

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**When can this test be done?**

Cordocentesis can be done after 18 weeks gestation and is done at some high risk OB centers.

**What are the risks involved?**

Cordocentesis is a safe test. Many of the risks associated with cordocentesis are the same as with amniocentesis. Risks are rare for this test, but they may include:

- Blood loss from the puncture site
- Infection of the uterus
- Fetal heart rate drop
- Premature rupture of membranes
- Early labor
- Emergency delivery by c-section for fetal distress
- Miscarriage can happen 1 to 2 times in every 100 procedures.

**For More Information**

Talk with your doctor if you have questions about your pregnancy. To learn more about cordocentesis or fetal testing, please contact the Fetal Treatment Program at OSU Fetal Maternal Medicine at (614) 293-8083.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.