

Patient Information about Pregnancy Testing Before Getting Anesthesia for Surgery or Procedures

We strongly suggest you have a pregnancy test if:

1. You identify as or are genetically a female and have periods.
2. It has been less than one year since starting menopause.
3. You have had a tubal ligation or are using birth control.
4. You are trying to get pregnant.

You do NOT need a pregnancy test if:

1. You had your uterus removed.
2. You had your ovaries removed.
3. You have not had a period for more than a year.
4. You are genetically male.

Is the test always correct? Our urine pregnancy tests are correct 99% of the time. It is an easy test to complete. This test works once you have been pregnant for two weeks. Sometimes the pregnancy test does not give a clear result and we need to test your blood to confirm the result.

If the test is positive, you should make an appointment with your OB doctor (obstetrician).

Can I just take my own test at home and tell you the results? Home pregnancy tests are not as accurate as the test we use in the hospital. We cannot use the result of a pregnancy test that you did at home.

What happens if I have a positive test or I refuse to take the test? Your anesthesiologist and surgeon will talk to you about the risks and benefits of continuing or cancelling the procedure. Some procedures are too risky to do if you are pregnant or possibly pregnant. A decision will be made to proceed or delay the procedure.

What are some of the risks if I have surgery and am pregnant?

1. Increased risk of miscarriage.
2. Increased risk of stillbirth.
3. Increased risk of pre-term delivery.
4. Increased risk of low birth weight baby.
5. Increased risk for C-section (caesarean section).
6. Longer hospital stay after delivery.
7. Surgeries on the uterus could put the pregnancy at higher risk.
8. Surgeries that impact how much blood goes to your uterus could put the pregnancy at higher risk. This includes surgery on your heart, arteries or veins.
9. We do not know how all surgeries will affect your pregnancy.
10. General anesthesia, other anesthetic medicines, pain medicines and sedation may be used during your procedure. There currently is no medical evidence that these medicines cause any harm to your pregnancy. But it is unknown whether these medicines can affect the development of your developing baby's brain.
11. You may have a complication or need for additional treatment during your surgery and anesthesia. This may require different medicines, procedures or tests that could harm your pregnancy or cause birth defects that are not listed here.

If you have any questions or concerns please ask your anesthesiologist.