





## Labwork in Pregnancy

This is a list of the usual labwork ordered during pregnancy. Ask us if you have any questions concerning a test or result.

### Initial labs done at first prenatal visit

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| CBC: complete blood count       | A measure of your red and white blood cell numbers; helps determine if you are anemic or undergoing infection.   |
| Blood type                      | Tells us "the letter": A, B, AB or O. Important to know when giving or receiving blood   |
| Rh factor (Rh+ or Rh-)          | Is another part of the blood type. It is the "+" or "-". Most people are Rh+.  |
| Antibody screen                 | Tells us whether your blood has antibodies that might be harmful to the baby; especially important if you are Rh-.   |
| Serology                        | A test for syphilis  |
| Rubella titer                   | A measure of your immunity to rubella (German measles). If you are not immune, you may want to be vaccinated after pregnancy as protection for your next pregnancy.  |
| HbsAg                           | A measure of your exposure to hepatitis B that may require treatment of the baby after birth   |
| HIV test                        | Optional. Detects antibodies to HIV in your blood. See HIV handout.  |
| Urine test                      | Test for sugar, protein, and indications of infection in your blood.   |
| Pap smear                       | Detects changes in cervical cells that may lead to cancer. We do it if you have not had a test or a test with an abnormal result in the past 6-9 months.   |
| Chlamydia and gonorrhea culture | Detects a chlamydia or gonorrhea infection which can be completely symptom-less and cause harm to the baby. Can be refused if you are absolutely certain of monogamous status with your partner for at least a year. |

### Testing at 28-38 weeks gestation

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Hgb/Hct           | Hemoglobin/Hematocrit. Counts red blood cell numbers; helps determine if you are anemic and need iron or B vitamins  |
| Glucose challenge | Screens for gestational diabetes and is the standard of care. Involves drinking glucose, drawing blood, and a 2+ hour office visit. Some women object to the glucose drink, preferring to eat a good meal instead. There is no standardized result for this method, though it can indicate who may need further testing. |
| Antibody screen   | Needed only if mom is Rh-. Helps determine if Rhogam can be given to help protect baby.  |

### Additional diabetes screening

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 3-hour GTT: glucose tolerance test | If a woman screens positive to the above glucose challenge, she may have gestational diabetes. A 3-hr GTT helps screen these women at higher risk. It is the recommended standard of OB care. See Gestational Diabetes Testing handout. |
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