

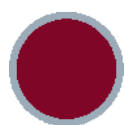
Screening for blood group, D group and antibodies

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



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Your choice



This booklet has information about a test you can have.

The test can find out your blood group and your D group.

The test can tell us more about your blood group and we can give you information or tell you about treatment for you or your baby.



You can choose if you want to have the test.

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

The test can show if you or your baby might need extra care.



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



About this test



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

It is important to tell your midwife if you have any health problems with your blood.

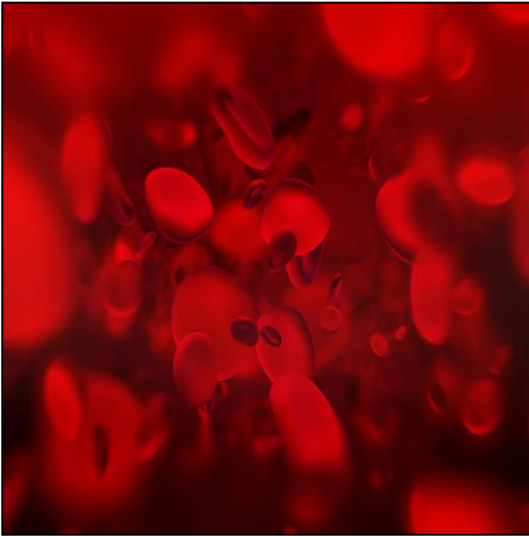


This test takes a small bit of your blood to find out your blood group and D group, and to look for any problems in your blood which could harm your baby.

This test will be done again when you are 28 weeks pregnant to look for the same problems.



Blood group and antibodies



You will have one of the following blood groups.

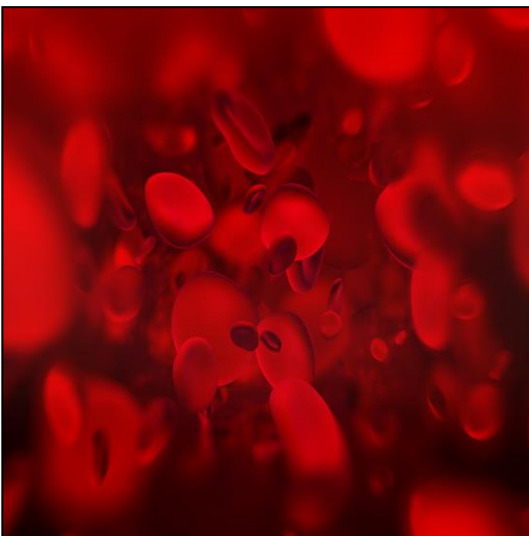
- Group A
- Group O
- Group B
- Group AB

You will also be either D positive or D negative.

For example, your blood group may be written as 'O RhD positive'.



The people looking after you during your pregnancy need to know your blood group in case you need a blood transfusion. This usually only happens if you bleed a lot when you have your baby.



Your body makes antibodies to protect you from harm. You may also make antibodies if your baby's blood cells mix with your blood cells.

Sometimes, this can make your baby unwell.



If this happens, when your baby is born they may be admitted to hospital.



If you are D negative you will be offered another test to see what your baby's blood group is.

If your baby does not have the same D group as you, you will be offered an injection (or injections) to help protect your baby from antibodies during pregnancy.

You may be offered this if you have:

- bleeding from your vagina
- a miscarriage
- an injury to your tummy
- a very thin needle put into your tummy for an invasive test (amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS)), or
- given birth to your baby.



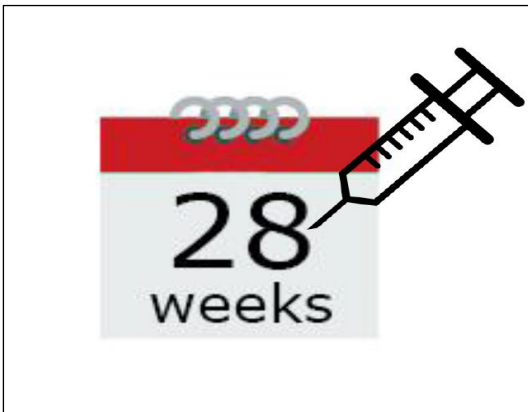
Test results



You will usually get the results at your next appointment.

You may have more blood tests if you have antibodies.

If you have antibodies your baby may need special tests before birth.



If you are D negative and your baby is D positive, you will be offered an injection at 28 weeks and when your baby is born. This is to prevent antibodies harming your baby.

If your baby is the same D group as you, you will not need to have the injection (or injections). The person who does your test will tell you about this.



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