

# Choroid Plexus Cysts

Your recent obstetric ultrasound may have identified Choroid Plexus cysts in your baby. These small fluid filled sacs, noted in the baby's developing brain, are a frequent and usually isolated finding. They almost always disappear by the 24th week of pregnancy, and have no effect on the developing brain or brain function after birth. Choroid Plexus cysts are usually totally benign. However, there may be some connection between Choroid Plexus cysts and certain chromosomal abnormalities. The chance your baby will have chromosomal abnormalities is about 1 in 100 (1%).

Because of the unlikely but potential association with chromosomal abnormalities, your doctor or midwife may refer you to the Genetic Counselor and Perinatologist at Shands Hospital (some insurance policies require you to go elsewhere for this evaluation). The Perinatologist is an obstetrician who specializes in problems associated with the developing baby.

At that appointment, the Genetic Counselor will determine your particular risks for the chromosomal abnormalities that may be associated with Choroid Plexus cysts. Before your appointment, you and your baby's father may want to talk with family members about your medical histories. Gathering as much information as you can about medical problems in your family will be very helpful. The Perinatologist will do a targeted, or Level II ultrasound, looking carefully for other abnormalities.

Genetic abnormalities in the baby cannot be totally ruled out unless amniocentesis is performed, but for women under the age of 35 with a normal Level II ultrasound and a normal OB triple screen, the baby's risk of having Trisomy 18 is lower than the risk of amniocentesis (about 1 in 200). Regardless of your age, an amniocentesis will be offered to you at this appointment.

At your Shands Hospital appointment you will have ample opportunity to learn as much as is known about Choroid Plexus cysts, and to ask any questions that you have.