

Patient information

Ventriculomegaly

What is Ventriculomegaly?

You have received this information leaflet because the ultrasound scan of your baby demonstrates ultrasound appearances of ventriculomegaly.

Ventricles are fluid filled cavities in the brain (filled with cerebrospinal fluid sometimes referred to as CSF). The purpose of which is to supply oxygen and nutrients to the brain and carry away waste products. Ventriculomegaly is a term used to describe enlarged ventricles in the brain.

We usually expect the ventricles to measure less than 10mm at 20 weeks. When there is an excess of fluid in the ventricles, it makes the ventricles appear enlarged.

What does this mean?

Ventriculomegaly occurs in 2:1000 births. In most cases it can be a “chance” finding with little significance and no cause found.

Sometimes ventriculomegaly can be associated with a maternal viral infection. A blood test may be offered to you to exclude this.

Ventriculomegaly can sometimes be associated with a chromosomal condition such as Down’s Syndrome. You may or may not have decided to have the initial screening for chromosomal conditions but regardless of this decision/result you may wish to opt for this test to exclude / confirm whether your baby has a chromosomal condition. This would involve a diagnostic test called an amniocentesis. This test does carry a 0.5% chance of miscarriage. The option for this test will be discussed with you in further detail by a fetal medicine doctor. Further information can also be found here [CVS and amniocentesis diagnostic tests: description in brief - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cvs-and-amniocentesis-diagnostic-tests-description-in-brief)

Useful information

In one-third of cases during the pregnancy the fluid measurements will increase.

In one-third of cases the fluid measures will fall.

And in one-third of cases the fluid measurements will be stable.

What happens now?

You will be offered referral to a local Fetal Medicine Unit (FMU). This will be at either the Rosie Maternity Hospital at Addenbrookes in Cambridge or at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Once we have sent your referral, this is day zero. The FMU team will review your referral and contact you by telephone to arrange an appointment; this may show as a blocked number. You will usually be seen within five days of referral.

You will be seen by a fetal medicine consultant who will perform a more in-depth ultrasound scan of your baby. They will discuss the additional tests with you and depending on the findings of the scan/tests they will plan your ongoing care with you alongside the antenatal and newborn screening midwives at West Suffolk Hospital.

Many babies with ventriculomegaly identified on scan do not have any health conditions.

If you, your partner or family have any further questions or queries, please do contact the antenatal and newborn screening midwives. We understand this can be a worrying time and are here to support you.

Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC): www.arc-uk.org

Screening in pregnancy information leaflets Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/screening-in-pregnancy-information-leaflets>

Contact details

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the antenatal and newborn screening midwives, we understand this can be a worrying time.

Telephone: 01284 712567

Or email: ANNBscreening@wsh.nhs.uk

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is actively involved in clinical research. Your doctor, clinical team or the research and development department may contact you regarding specific clinical research studies that you might be interested in participating in. If you do not wish to be contacted for these purposes, please email info.gov@wsh.nsh.uk. This will in no way affect the care or treatment you receive.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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