

CAMELBACK WOMEN'S HEALTH

INFORMED CONSENT FOR GENETIC AMNIOCENTESIS

Genetic amniocentesis is a method of prenatal diagnosis which can assist in detecting certain birth defects. The procedure involves putting a needle through the mother's abdomen into the fluid around the baby.

The risks of spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) after an amniocentesis is 0.5% (1/200). Ultrasound is used to guide the needle during the procedure to help avoid injury to the baby or mother. Ultrasound is also used to establish the baby's age, detect twins, and locate the placenta.

Any attempt to obtain amniotic fluid by amniocentesis may be unsuccessful. This occurs in less than 1% of patients.

1-2% of patients leak amniotic fluid from the vagina or have vaginal bleeding following the procedure. The fluid may be blood tinged.

In less than 1% of patients, the cells do not grow in culture and the amniocentesis may need to be repeated. Failure of cells to grow does not indicate an abnormality.

Fetal chromosome analysis and amniotic fluid alpha-fetoprotein determination will be done. As with any laboratory test, there is a small possibility of error. Chromosome analysis is over 99% accurate. The alpha-fetoprotein assay is capable of detecting 90-95% of neural tube defects (open spine defects) that are present. The accuracy of biochemical and DNA analysis varies according to the test being performed.

The tests performed can only detect certain birth defects. The results of these tests do not guarantee the birth of a normal child. Everyone has a 3-5% risk of having a child with a birth defect and the results of the amniocentesis do not eliminate this risk.

I have had the opportunity to discuss the above risks and limitations with amniocentesis with my doctor. I believe the benefits of having an amniocentesis outweigh the risks of the procedure and consent to have the procedure performed.

SIGNED: _____

WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____