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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

You have been sent this leaflet because your recent combined screening test for Trisomy 21, 18 and 13 (Down's, Edwards' and Patau's syndrome) has detected a low-level PAPP-A. This is a coincidental finding of the combined screening test.

What is PAPP-A?

PAPP-A (pregnancy associated plasma protein-A) is a protein produced by the placenta (afterbirth). It is needed for the formation and maintenance of a healthy placenta.

What does low PAPP-A mean?

Most babies born with a low maternal PAPP-A have babies born at the expected time and are of a normal weight. However, low levels of PAPP-A may be associated with an increased chance of pregnancy complications including a smaller than expected or earlier than expected baby.

Women who have low level PAPP-A also have a slightly higher chance of developing pre-eclampsia (high blood pressure and protein in your urine). You will be advised to take 150mg of oral aspirin daily to help reduce the risk of developing pre-eclampsia during your pregnancy. Please check with the midwife or obstetrician if you require this.

How is low PAPP-A managed?

You will be offered scans from 28 weeks until birth to assess the growth of your baby, and how the placenta is working (this is done by measuring the blood flow through the cord, and fluid around the baby).

If your pregnancy presents additional complexities, the midwife sonographers will provide you with the necessary care and support. If at any point there are concerns, you will promptly be referred to an obstetrician.

If you have additional care needs, the obstetric team will manage your care.

What can I do to help?

If you smoke, it is very important that you stop. Smoking can affect the function of the placenta and restrict your baby's growth. Please contact your community midwife who can refer you for smoking cessation classes or refer yourself directly to Help Me Quit via their website (<https://www.helpmequit.wales>).

Contact numbers

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