

Center of Medical Genetics Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi 110060

Telephone Nos: Direct 011-25861767; 42251992/93

Fax No. 011-42251034. Email: dr icverma@yahoo.com

Instructions for Collecting Amniotic Fluid (AF) Sample.

1. Amniocentesis is ideally done at 16th weeks or more of gestation
2. Collection under sterile conditions is very important. Use spirit liberally at the site of collection to sterilize the skin.
3. Two sterile tubes are provided. Paraffin is used to seal the empty sterile tube, to avoid accidental loosening of the blood cap.
4. Peel open the Paraffin film. The blue cap of the tube should be opened near the flame of the Bunsen burner/spirit lamp, only when the AF sample has been aspirated and is ready to be put into the sterile tube.
5. The syringe with the sample should not be left open on any tray or table.
6. Atleast 20ml of amniotic fluid should be collected. Discard the first 1-2 ml if it is blood-tinged. The first 10ml should be added in one sterile tube and the next 10ml in the second sterile tube.
7. Both tubes need to be sealed after the sample is added in them. Paraffin strips are provided with the tubes. Stretch the parafilm around the cap of the tube to seal it.
8. Flame the top of the collecting tube before closing the lid .
9. If there is twin pregnancy, collect the fluid from both twins and identify precisely the position of twin 1 and 2.
10. AF sample thus collected must be sent to the Genetic lab as early as possible. Fresh sample gives better viability of cells and culture.
11. Please do not pack AF sample in ice as very low temperatures can damage the cells of fluid. Sample is stored overnight at room temperature.
12. Results- FISH for chromosome 13,18, 21and sex chromosomes is available within 4 days and culture analysis is available within 21 days.