

How Blood Pregnancy Tests Are Done

Every pregnancy test functions by identifying human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). HCG is a hormone that is found in only pregnant women and is created by cells in the uterus. HCG is responsible for signaling the ovaries to manufacture estrogen and progesterone to help a fetus to grow and is detected by every pregnancy test, no matter if it is a blood or urine test. HCG levels continue to rise as a pregnancy proceeds and are therefore more easily detected the further along a pregnancy actually is.

A pregnancy test that's done with a blood test is performed by a doctor or other health professional in their clinic. It can detect a pregnancy by gauging the hCG levels in the blood. There are in fact two types of pregnancy test that can be performed via a blood test: the quantitative blood test and the qualitative blood test.

The quantitative blood test is a pregnancy test that determines pregnancy by measuring the exact amount of hCG in the bloodstream. This kind of pregnancy test can also be used to detect how far along a woman is into her pregnancy.

The qualitative blood test is a pregnancy test that detects pregnancy by pointing out the presence of hCG in the bloodstream. This kind of pregnancy test does not actually measure the hCG levels but it simply provides a yes or no answer as to whether the woman is pregnant. It does not give any sign as to how far along the woman is in her pregnancy.

A pregnancy test done by a blood test is completed in the same way as any other blood test.

- * The first step in is the swabbing of a spot on the woman's arm with alcohol.
- * A needle is then inserted into the woman's arm and blood is drawn from the needle into a small vial.
- * The vial of blood is then labeled and sent to a laboratory where the test will be performed.

The pregnancy test results usually take a day or two depending on the work load of the laboratory involved.

A blood test done at a clinic has a 99 percent accuracy rate and can detect pregnancy earlier than most urine tests. It is possible to have a blood test for pregnancy done as early as seven days after the woman ovulates. This timeframe is roughly a week before the woman's period is due.

A pregnancy test can have a false positive result if a woman is taking a drug that contains hCG. These sorts of drugs are commonly used in fertility treatments and it is important to discuss with a health care provider whether medications can influence a pregnancy test result.