

# Pregnancy Test

## Why do I need a pregnancy test?



It is important to find out if you are pregnant **both before you start cancer treatment and during treatment**. This is because some tests or treatments could harm an unborn baby (fetus). A urine pregnancy test is done if you are at an age when pregnancy can occur (from the time you have your first period up to age 55). You will not need a pregnancy test if you have:

- Gone a full year without having any period (after menopause)
- Had your uterus removed by a hysterectomy
- Lost normal function of your ovaries (ovarian failure)
- Had your ovaries or fallopian tubes removed by a surgery called oophorectomy or salpingectomy (tied tubes)

## If I am already using birth control, why do I need the test?

No form of birth control is 100% effective, this includes tubal ligation (tied tubes) and vasectomy. You can get pregnant even if you use contraception.

## When will I get the test results?

Test results are often ready the same day. Your health care team will contact you when your test results are available.

## What happens if the pregnancy test is positive?

If the pregnancy test is positive, you will talk with your health care team about your pregnancy and treatment options. Many cancers can be treated safely while you are pregnant. It will also be important that your obstetrician follows your care while pregnant.

## Cancer Treatment During Pregnancy

The type of treatment you receive depends on:

- How far along you are in your pregnancy
- The type, location, size and stage of your cancer
- Your personal wishes

## Can I get pregnant during treatment?

You are at risk for getting pregnant during cancer treatment. This can happen even if you have symptoms of menopause and think you cannot get pregnant. Some cancer medicines may cause birth defects or miscarriage. It is important for you to talk with your health care team about options for birth control as well as your cancer medicines and treatment. Some birth control methods may not work well during cancer treatment.

## **Where can I learn more about pregnancy and cancer?**

Ask your health care team any questions you have. Visit the Learning Center, a free consumer health library, for more information and resources.

### **Theodore N. Law Learning Center**

Main Building, Floor 4, near Elevator A, Room R4.1100

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

713-745-8063

### **Levit Family Learning Center**

Mays Clinic, Floor 2, near Elevator T, Room ACB2.1120

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

713-563-8010