

What is the fetal fibronectin test?

Fetal fibronectin is a normal fluid that is formed in pregnancy between the amniotic sac and the inside wall of the uterus. As a woman's body gets ready to go into labor, fetal fibronectin can be found in a woman's vaginal discharge. The test helps predict who will and who won't go into labor in the next 14 days.

Why did I get the test?

Your health care provider felt there was a chance you could go into early labor which could result in a premature baby. You were tested to see if there was fetal fibronectin in your vaginal fluids so that you and your provider can better understand the risks to you and your baby.

How long will it take for me to find out the results of the test?

Some laboratories can have results in one hour but often it takes a full day for the results to be available.

What does it mean if I have a positive test?

A positive test means you have a small chance of giving birth in the next 2 weeks. It is important to remember that the chance is not very large. In fact, of all the women who have a positive test only about 13% will have their baby in the next week and only 17% in the next two weeks. The test only predicts the chance for a two week period. If your test is positive, your health care provider may give you some special directions of how to take care of yourself for the next few days and weeks.

What does it mean if I have a negative test?

A negative test means you probably will not give birth in the next 2 weeks. A negative test is very reassuring but it is not perfect. If you have a negative test the likelihood of you having a preterm birth in the next 7 days is only 1 in 200. In other words, if 200 women have a negative result, 199 of them will still be pregnant in a week. The same negative test indicates that a woman has a good chance she will still be pregnant in two weeks—there is only 1 chance in 125 that she will have a preterm birth in the next 14 days. While this is good news, you should still be aware of the signs and symptoms of preterm labor and contact your health care provider if you have any questions or concerns.