

## Alpha Fetoprotein (Amniotic fluid)

<b>Description</b>	70 kDa glycoprotein, foetal homologue of albumin
<b>Indication</b>	Prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal and birth defects
<b>Additional Info</b>	Alpha fetoprotein (AFP) is the foetal equivalent to albumin, synthesised by the foetal liver. Maternal serum levels are elevated in normal pregnancy, varying with gestational age and maternal weight. AFP is present in normal amniotic fluid.
<b>Concurrent Tests</b>	Acetylcholinesterase (amniotic fluid)
<b>Dietary Requirements</b>	N/A
<b>Interpretation</b>	Increased in open neural tube defects, abdominal wall defect, nephrosis, skin disease or other failure of the interior or exterior body surface. Decreased in Down syndrome.
<b>Collection Conditions</b>	Sample collection at 14-24 weeks gestation
<b>Frequency of testing</b>	Repeat measurement inappropriate