

# Choroid Plexus Cysts

## Choroid Plexus Cysts

A choroid plexus cyst is an area of fluid that collects in the choroid plexus. The choroid plexus is a spongy organ located on each side of the brain. It makes the cerebrospinal fluid that protects (cushions) the brain and spinal cord. The choroid plexus does not control thinking or development.

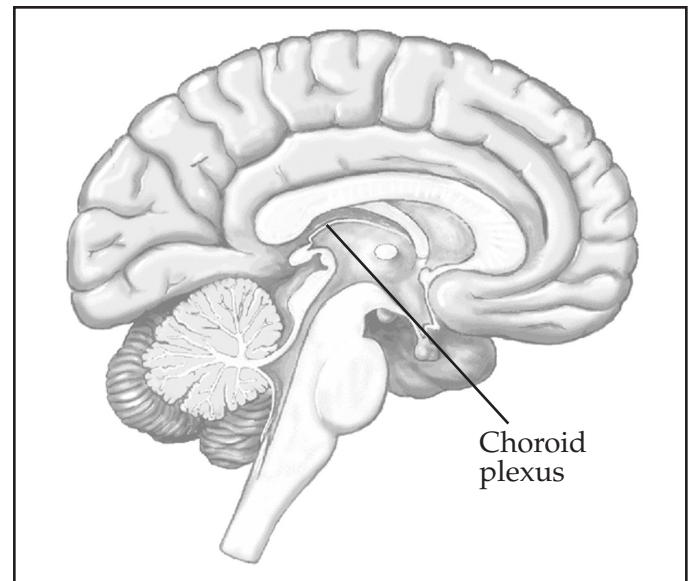
Choroid plexus cysts are found in about 1 out of every 50 to 100 pregnancies. They can be seen on one or both sides of the brain. The number, size and shape of the cysts can vary.

Choroid plexus cysts are usually considered normal and do not harm your baby. These cysts can also be found in some healthy children and adults.

## Causes

A choroid plexus cyst happens when a small amount of the cerebrospinal fluid gets trapped in the layer of cells as your baby's brain grows and develops.

The cysts go away on their own during pregnancy, usually by week 32. Choroid plexus cysts can happen in any pregnancy.



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**The choroid plexus makes the cerebrospinal fluid that protects the brain and spinal cord.**

## Treatment

There is no treatment for a choroid plexus cyst.

When choroid plexus cysts are found, you will need to have a more detailed ultrasound.

This type of ultrasound will help determine if there are other concerns related to Trisomy 18.

If no other concerns are found, no additional tests or ultrasounds are needed.

**(over)**

## Trisomy 18 and Down Syndrome

When a choroid plexus cyst is seen on an ultrasound, it raises a small concern for a genetic condition called Trisomy 18.

If only a choroid plexus cyst is found on the ultrasound, the risk of Trisomy 18 is less than 1 percent. The number, size and shape of the cysts does not change this risk. Trisomy 18 does not typically run in families.

Choroid plexus cysts **do not** increase the risk of your baby having Down syndrome.

### Prenatal testing

Some women have prenatal testing done in the early part of pregnancy before an ultrasound is done. These tests usually evaluate the risk for Trisomy 18 and other chromosome conditions.

If you did not have prenatal testing in the early part of pregnancy and choroid plexus cysts are found, there still may be options for testing available. You are encouraged to talk with a genetic counselor. He or she can review your risk factors and help you decide if prenatal testing is right for you.

If other concerns besides choroid plexus cysts are found on your ultrasound, you and your health care provider can talk about the prenatal tests available during pregnancy to better determine your risk for Trisomy 18.