

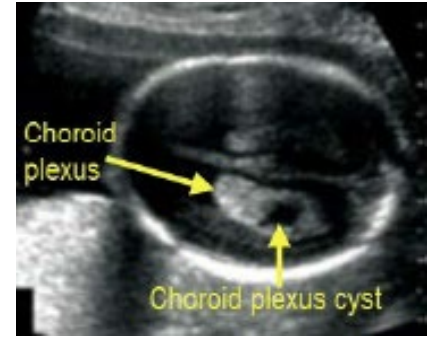
PRENATAL ULTRASOUND FINDINGS

Choroid Plexus Cysts (CPC)

What is a CPC?

A choroid plexus cyst is a small area of fluid that collects in a part of the brain called the choroid plexus. There can be one or more CPC. The size and shape can vary.

The choroid plexus is a pair of spongy glands found on each side of the brain. This part of the brain is not involved in thinking or development. These glands make a fluid that flows through the brain and spinal cord. The fluid will sometimes collect inside the spongy tissue of these glands during early fetal growth.



This common ultrasound finding is seen in up to 1 in 50 pregnancies (2%). CPC can also be found in some healthy children and adults.

Does a CPC harm the baby?

A CPC is not harmful to the baby. These cysts do not damage the brain or affect the way the brain works. They are not a tumor or type of cancer. A CPC is considered normal when there are no serious findings on the ultrasound.

Does a CPC mean the baby has trisomy 18?

In a very small number of pregnancies, a CPC is one sign of a condition called trisomy 18. Trisomy 18 is a rare condition that affects the baby's development. Babies with trisomy 18 usually have many abnormal ultrasound findings. Your baby is very unlikely to have trisomy 18 if there are no other signs of this condition on the ultrasound.

What additional tests are needed?

No additional testing is recommended based on finding a CPC. However, prenatal tests are routinely offered during pregnancy. You may have already had a blood test that screens for trisomy 18. Either cell-free DNA (also called cfDNA or NIPT) or AFP4 (Quad) screening can estimate the chance for trisomy 18. If you have not had prenatal screening, you can talk with your OB provider about your options.

Will the CPC go away?

Most CPCs go away before delivery. They usually disappear before 28 weeks, but there is no special concern if they are still seen later in pregnancy. For this reason, you do not need any extra ultrasounds to monitor the cysts. There is also no need to follow-up after the baby is born.

Where can I get more information?

You can talk with your OB provider if you have questions about this ultrasound finding.