



# AMNIOCENTESIS

## WHAT IS AMNIOCENTESIS?

An amniocentesis or “amnio” is a diagnostic procedure that samples the amniotic fluid surrounding the developing fetus. Within this fluid (which happens to be fetal urine) are fetal cells that have been shed from the fetal skin, genitourinary system and lungs that can be tested to determine the health of the developing fetus.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCREENING AND DIAGNOSTIC TEST?

Unlike screening tests such as the first trimester screen, or the second trimester expanded AFP screen which generate a risk assessment, amniocentesis is diagnostic — with nearly 100 percent accuracy — in determining whether the pregnancy is affected with a chromosome disorder.

## WHICH TESTS CAN BE PERFORMED ON AN AMNIOCENTESIS SAMPLE?

Most commonly, an amniocentesis sample is used to test for chromosome abnormalities such as Down syndrome (trisomy 21), trisomy 13, trisomy 18, sex chromosome abnormalities and in some cases, specific genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis, fragile X or sickle cell disease.

## HOW IS AN AMNIOCENTESIS PERFORMED?

Using ultrasound guidance, a very thin needle is guided through the lower abdomen into the amniotic fluid. A small sample of fluid is withdrawn and sent for chromosome/genetic testing. The fetus is kept in view at all times to assure the procedure is accomplished safely. Despite most women’s fears that the procedure is painful, approximately 97 percent of our patients report the procedure to be significantly less painful than what they expected.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The risk of miscarriage following an amniocentesis is less than 1 in 1,000. Our specialized center with qualified perinatologists and state-of-the-art ultrasound equipment minimizes the risks associated with amniocentesis.

## I WOULDN'T TERMINATE MY PREGNANCY REGARDLESS, SO WHY SHOULD I DO AN AMNIOCENTESIS?

Pregnancies affected with Down syndrome are managed very differently than those that are not. Performing an amniocentesis may improve the outcome of your pregnancy, provide peace of mind or help prepare for the delivery of your baby.

## WHO SHOULD CONSIDER AMNIOCENTESIS?

*You should consider Amniocentesis if:*

- *You are 35 years old or older*
- *You have had a chromosome abnormality in a previous pregnancy.*
- *You have a family history or are at risk for a specific genetic disorder.*
- *You have received abnormal results from a screening test (first or second trimester maternal serum screening).*



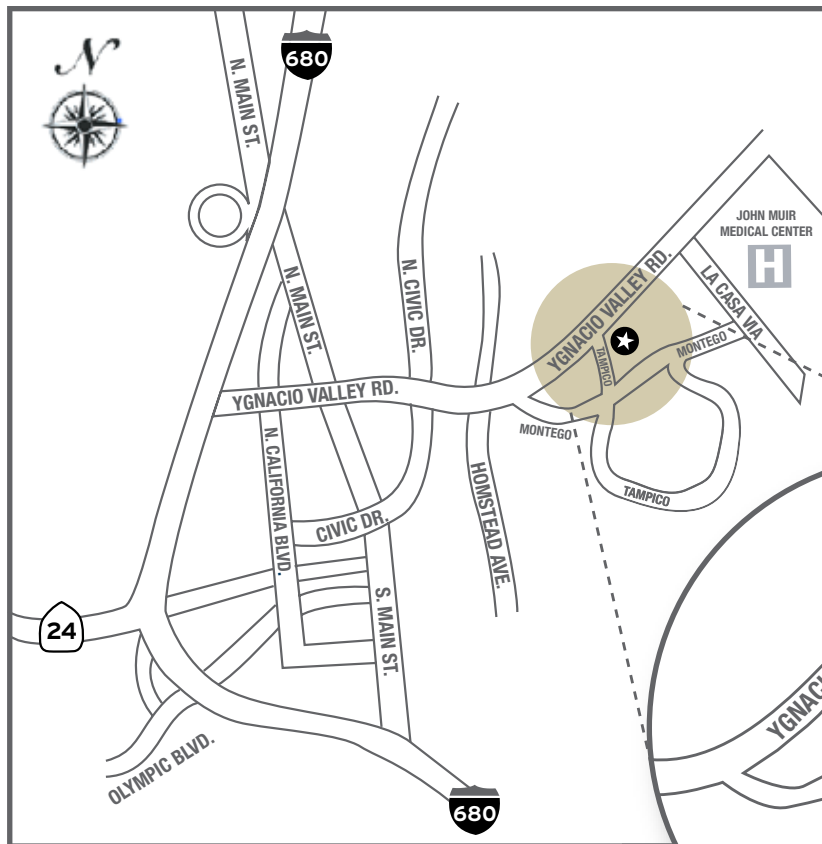
### **Diablo Valley Perinatal Associates**

Jeffrey Traynor, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.; Rosa Won, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

110 Tampico Dr., Suite 100, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 TEL (925) 891-9033 FAX: (925) 891-9066

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# DIRECTIONS



**110 TAMPICO DRIVE  
SUITE 100  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598**

FREE Parking available.

## FROM THE SOUTH BAY

Follow I-680 North to Walnut Creek.  
Take the Ygnacio Valley Rd exit.  
Turn right onto Ygnacio Valley Rd.  
Turn right onto Tampico.  
Turn left into first driveway.

## FROM THE WEST

Follow CA-24 East through the Caldecott Tunnel.  
Keep left, follow signs for I-680 N/Sacramento/Concord  
Take Ygnacio Valley Rd exit.  
Turn right onto Ygnacio Valley Rd.  
Turn right onto Tampico.  
Turn left into first driveway.

## FROM THE NORTH BAY

From Interstate 80, merge onto I-680 South.  
Exit N. Main Street (southbound) in Walnut Creek.  
Turn left onto Ygnacio Valley Rd.  
Turn right onto Tampico.  
Turn left into first driveway.



**DIABLO VALLEY  
PERINATAL ASSOCIATES**

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