

Measuring Large for Gestational Age (LGA)

You have been given this leaflet as you have been told that your baby may be bigger than expected, or 'large for gestational age' from measurements taken from an ultrasound scan. The term 'Large for Gestational Age Baby' refers to a baby whose estimated weight is predicted to be larger than average (over the 90th centile).

It is important to remember that there is a 10-15% margin of error with ultrasound scans, particularly with scans undertaken later in pregnancy. This means your baby may not be as large, or may be larger than the weight predicted.

Why is my baby measuring large?

The following women are at risk of having an LGA baby:

- Women with pre-existing or gestational diabetes.
- Women who are overweight.
- Women who have had a previous LGA baby.

Sometimes we do not know what has caused a baby to measure larger than expected.

What are the risks of having a Large for Gestational Age baby?

Most babies that measure large for gestational age are birthed vaginally without any problems. However, measuring large for gestational age can be associated with some risks;

- Some women may experience a longer labour when their baby is measuring larger than average.
- There is an increased risk of a shoulder dystocia in labour. Shoulder dystocia is where the baby's shoulder becomes stuck behind the mother's pubic bone during birth. This is an emergency situation but all midwives and doctors are trained to manage this situation.
- There is an increased risk of perineal tearing (damage to the skin, vaginal wall and muscle between the vagina and anus) that may need repairing. Sometimes these tears can be deep and extend to the muscle around the back passage (anal sphincter),
- There is a small increase in risk of haemorrhage following birth (excessive blood loss),
- There is not an increased risk of requiring an instrumental birth (forceps or Ventouse) or an operative birth (Caesarean section)

What will happen now?

You will have an appointment in Antenatal clinic where your scan findings will be discussed and a plan of care can be agreed between yourself and the obstetric team.

If you are under 34 weeks pregnant, you will be offered a GTT (glucose tolerance test) which is test for Gestational Diabetes. If you have already had this test in this pregnancy, you will not need to repeat it.

Accessible Information

If you need this information in another format or language, please ask a member of staff.

Smoking

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke or use e-cigarettes in any of the hospital buildings or grounds.

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