

MAP clinic: ultrasound scans for morbidly adherent placenta (MAP) after a caesarean



Information for patients

This leaflet explains a condition called morbidly adherent placenta (MAP) and why we offer you ultrasound scans to diagnose it. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the doctors or midwives caring for you.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your **name** and **date of birth** and check your **ID band**. If you don't have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address.

If we don't ask these questions, then please ask us to check.

Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is a morbidly adherent placenta (MAP)?

It is when your placenta (after birth) is attached abnormally to your womb. This condition is also called placenta previa accreta.

Normally, your placenta is attached to the wall of your womb and separates easily after your baby is born.

But if you have had a caesarean section in the past, there is a very low risk that in future pregnancies your placenta will be partially attached to your caesarean scar.

When this happens, your placenta may not separate after delivery. This can cause heavy bleeding and you may have a high risk of needing a caesarean hysterectomy, where your womb is removed at the time of delivery. This is a life-threatening situation.

What is my risk of MAP?

It is a rare condition and happens in only one in 500 – 1,000 pregnancies. Your risk increases if you have had more than one caesarean in the past.

How do we diagnose MAP?

Dedicated ultrasound scans looking at placental location and appearance inside the womb can predict MAP at the area of the previous caesarean scar. These scans are done in the same way as all the other scans you will have during the pregnancy.



Will I be offered a scan, and if so, when?

We run a special MAP clinic to diagnose this condition and book follow-up scans.

We will offer you an ultrasound scan at the MAP clinic if you have had a previous caesarean and we find that your placenta is attached to the lower part of your womb near the scar. If the scan results suggest that you are at high risk of having MAP, we will book you a follow-up scan at 28 weeks.

Most of the mums we see have a normal placenta and do not need to come back for a follow-up scan after 28 weeks.

What will happen if MAP is diagnosed?

If you have been diagnosed with a morbidly adherent placenta, you will not be able to have a normal labour.

Your baby will need to be delivered by a planned caesarean section. The caesarean will be done by experienced doctors who will be able to deal with heavy bleeding and any difficulties that might happen during the operation.

What are the benefits of diagnosing MAP?

By finding out that you are at risk of having MAP before you have your baby, we can:

- plan your caesarean
- prevent and improve the management of potentially significant complications for you and your baby.

What are the risks of not diagnosing MAP?

If you go into normal labour and we do not know that you have a morbidly adherent placenta, you are at high risk of heavy bleeding and needing a hysterectomy when you deliver your baby. This is a life-threatening situation.

Are there any alternatives?

If you are diagnosed with MAP, there is no alternative to having a planned caesarean. It is the safest way for you to deliver because it allows us to prevent and manage potentially significant complications for you and your baby.

Who can I contact with queries and concerns?

Please contact the Harris Birthright Centre and ask to speak to one of the midwives.

Tel: **020 3299 8254 / 8255** or **020 3299 3040**,

9am to 7pm, Monday to Friday

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

King's is a teaching hospital where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.



Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleden Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

Tel: **020 3299 3601**

Email: **kch-tr.pals@nhs.net**

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 3601.



