



Placenta Accreta Spectrum (PAS)

How is it diagnosed? What can you expect during your pregnancy and when you deliver your baby?

PAS is a serious pregnancy condition that happens when the placenta attaches itself too deeply into the muscle wall of the uterus. There are different degrees of attachment from low (called accreta) to high (called increta or percreta).

If the placenta is too deeply attached, it cannot be delivered normally after the baby is born. There is a risk of severe bleeding. Finding out if, and how deeply the placenta is attached is important to prepare for your delivery.

How does PAS get diagnosed?

Patients with placenta previa and a previous history of cesarean section are at highest risk. A detailed ultrasound at 20 weeks should look for signs of PAS.

If your history or 20 week ultrasound show any risks for PAS your doctor or midwife will refer you to the PAS clinic at Royal Columbian Hospital.



PAS CLINIC TEAM AT ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL

We have a big team of nurses and doctors:

- PAS nurse and coordinator
- Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialists
- Radiologists
- Anesthesiologists
- Pathologists
- Neonatologists

We all work together to coordinate the care for patients all over British Columbia

What happens after I get referred to the clinic?

If you are found to be at high risk for PAS based on your history or your pregnancy ultrasound, your doctor or midwife will refer you to the PAS Clinic at Royal Columbian Hospital and:

- A specialized ultrasound will be done, sometimes more than 1 ultrasound is needed
- Some patients may need an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) to look at the placenta in a different way
- You will have an appointment with an Obstetrician/Gynecologist who is a PAS specialist to discuss your risks and next steps

If PAS is confirmed the obstetrician will discuss a plan for your delivery at Royal Columbian Hospital. You will receive specific instructions about what will happen on the day of delivery.

Sometimes the specialized ultrasound and MRI show us that the placenta is normal and you will return to your regular pregnancy/birth care provider.

What happens on the day of delivery?

For those patients at risk and delivering at Royal Columbian Hospital, delivery will be different than normal.

- Delivery is recommended sometime between 34 to 36 weeks to avoid complications
- Delivery is by cesarean section and could in some cases include a hysterectomy
- You will stay in hospital 2-4 nights after surgery
- Some babies need to spend some time in the neonatal intensive care unit since delivery is preterm