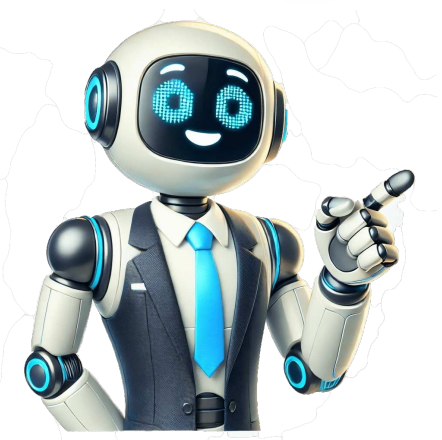


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How long after implantation bleeding should you test

A pregnancy test can show a positive result a few days after implantation has occurred. Most women who want to get pregnant are very keen to take a home pregnancy test (HPT) to see if the result is positive. Depending on your body and the levels of hCG hormone, early pregnancy can be detected by a pregnancy blood test as soon as 3-4 days after implantation. Usually, a urine home pregnancy test takes a few days longer to detect a pregnancy and may show a positive result as soon as 5-7 days after implantation. Even if the home pregnancy test result is negative, it doesn't necessarily mean that you are not pregnant. How soon an early pregnancy can be detected depends on the levels of the hormone called human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). This hormone is produced during pregnancy. Blood and urine pregnancy tests check for elevated levels of hCG which start to rise right after implantation. A positive urine home pregnancy test will undoubtedly mean that you are pregnant and should visit your doctor for hCG blood test. Most home urine pregnancy test kits advise that you should wait until the first day of your missed period before taking the test. This is when levels of hCG will usually be high enough for the majority of pregnancy testing kits to show a positive pregnancy result if you have conceived. However, some urine pregnancy testing kits are more sensitive and may be able to show a positive result and detect early pregnancy quite soon after implantation. If you have already waited for a few days after your missed period to take a pregnancy test, and it is still negative, chances are that you are not pregnant. You may want to take a pregnancy test, but you probably have questions such as: How long after implantation can I test? How long do I have to wait after a missed period before I take a test? In this article, you will find out how early you can detect pregnancy using at-home pregnancy testing kits. You will also learn about the other early signs of pregnancy that can help determine if implantation has taken place. How Long After Implantation You Need to Take a Pregnancy Test How early you can take a pregnancy test depends on a number of factors such as the sensitivity of the home pregnancy test (HPT), levels of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) in your body, and the regularity of your menstrual cycle. A pregnancy test can only become positive when an egg is fertilized after ovulation. According to the American Pregnancy Association, ovulation happens about 11 to 21 days from the start of your last period.1 At ovulation, an egg is released and lives for up to 24 hours in the fallopian tubes waiting for a sperm that lives long enough to fertilize it. Some signs of ovulation include discharge, light abdominal cramping, and some ovulation spotting. When the fertilized egg attaches itself to the wall of your uterus, implantation occurs. As soon as implantation happens, your body produces hCG and the pregnancy hormone can be detected in a pregnancy test. At the same time, you may have other signs of implantation such as light spotting that lasts a day or two, mild cramping, tender breasts, and an increased need to pee. The length of time after implantation you need to take a pregnancy test to check if it's positive or not depends on the sensitivity of the pregnancy test that is carried out. The two types of pregnancy tests to check for early pregnancy are: Urine hCG pregnancy test kits that you use at home and show up a mark to indicate a positive pregnancy test or a negative test result. Pregnancy blood tests at the doctor's office to check for hCG in blood serum in order to detect a pregnancy. Urine hCG Test - When is it Positive After Implantation? Some of the most sensitive urine pregnancy test kits can detect early pregnancy in less than a week after implantation. The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, found that urine pregnancy testing kits will usually show a positive result 3-4 days after implantation. By 7 days (the time of the expected period) 98% of pregnancy testing kits will be positive.13 Urine pregnancy test kits have an hCG sensitivity of 25 mIU/ml (sensitivity of 25 units per litre). The American Pregnancy Association say that a reading of more than 25 mIU/ml in urine indicates pregnancy.2 The levels of hCG are detectable a few days after implantation. For example, a report published in a German medical journal said that sensitive pregnancy testing kits can detect hCG as early as 4 days or even 10 days before your next period is due.3 According to Dr. Nivin Todd on WebMD, implantation occurs 3-4 days after the egg is fertilized. This may result in implantation bleeding which can be one of the earliest signs of pregnancy. Dr. Todd says that hCG levels will show up in most urine tests from as early as 7 days before you expect your next period.4 False negative pregnancy test Sometimes, urine home pregnancy tests show up "false-negative" results because not enough hCG hormone has been detected yet. This means that you could still be pregnant even though the pregnancy test shows up as negative. However, in a few days, the pregnancy test will become positive in women if implantation has taken place. When to take a pregnancy test You can take a pregnancy test using a urine pregnancy test as early as a week before your next period is expected. Even if the results are negative, you shouldn't lose hope. Take another urine pregnancy test after 5-7 days to see if it becomes positive. According to Lab Tests Online, if you are pregnant, an early positive urine pregnancy test will be reliable 10 days after your missed menstrual period.5 Blood hCG Level and Early Pregnancy Test A pregnancy blood test will be positive 2 or 3 days before a urine pregnancy test. Pregnancy blood tests check the levels of the hCG hormone and they are more accurate than urine pregnancy tests as they can show the exact levels of hCG. Doctors also use hCG levels to see how many weeks you are pregnant and to monitor your health during pregnancy. A blood pregnancy test will become positive very soon after implantation. According to Dr. Melissa Conrad Stöppler on MedicineNet, positive pregnancy blood test result can show up as early as one week after conception. Because implantation happens 3-4 after conception, you might get early pregnancy blood test results that are usually positive within 3 or 4 days after implantation.6 False positive pregnancy test In very rare circumstances, you might have a "false-positive" pregnancy test result. Dr. Stöppler says that medication, tumors, or other conditions can show up as a positive pregnancy test when there is, in fact, no pregnancy. Pregnancy Test Soon After Implantation - How Accurate Is It? A positive pregnancy test is almost certainly correct and is usually very accurate. However, you always need to follow the instructions of the home pregnancy test correctly. Doctors from the National Health Service say that if the pregnancy test results are positive, then you are probably pregnant. However, a negative test result is less accurate and isn't necessarily an indicator that you're not pregnant. Sometimes, taking the pregnancy test too soon after implantation doesn't allow for high enough levels of hCG hormone to develop.7 Pregnancy tests can show a positive result when the concentration of the pregnancy hormone (hCG) is high enough to be detected in a blood test or urine sample. According to Dr. Traci Johnson on WebMD, there are 6 factors that can affect how accurate a pregnancy test is soon after implantation. Some of these are:8 When the urine test was taken. It is usually recommended to take the test first thing in the morning. This is because the concentration of hCG will be higher and makes a positive pregnancy result more likely. When you ovulate. Each woman's menstrual cycle is different and ovulation may not always happen exactly when planned. Although the average time of ovulation is mid-cycle, your body can release an egg as soon as day 11 of your cycle and as late as day 21. When implantation happens. It can be difficult to know exactly when implantation happens. A fertilized egg takes between 6 to 12 days after ovulation to implant itself in the uterine lining.1 How soon after implantation you take the test. There needs to be enough concentration of hCG for a positive pregnancy test result. It may take time for pregnancy test results to become positive if you have successfully conceived. The sensitivity of the pregnancy test. Doctors from the Mayo Clinic say that some pregnancy testing kits are more sensitive than others. Therefore, some may require a higher amount of pregnancy hormone hCG to show a positive pregnancy test result.9 Blood and urine hCG levels. There are also various factors that can affect pregnancy hormone levels. For example, if you drink too much fluids, you might not get a positive pregnancy reading when taking a urine test soon after implantation. The European Journal of Epidemiology says that smoking and being overweight can also negatively affect hCG levels. This makes it harder to test for early signs of pregnancy soon after implantation.10 However, if you are pregnant, then pregnancy test result is usually positive within 7-10 days after you have missed a period. How to Test for Pregnancy Soon After Implantation Most women use at-home urine pregnancy test kits because they are cheaper and quicker than making an appointment with your doctor for a pregnancy blood test. These will test positive for pregnancy when hCG levels reaches at least 25 mIU/ml. To use a urine pregnancy test soon after implantation to check if it tests positive, this is what you should do: Wash your hands with water and soap. Remove the testing kit from its packaging and sit on the toilet seat. Depending on the type of test, you either need to urinate on the testing stick or into a small plastic cup. The urine sample should be from midstream, so you should pee a little before collecting urine in the cup or placing the stick in the urine stream. If you are using the urine collection method to test for pregnancy, follow the instructions on using the dropper. Now, it's time to wait. The best thing is to do something to distract yourself for the 5 minutes or so it takes the test to show positive or negative. Check the results. What do Pregnancy Test Results Mean After Implantation? Positive pregnancy results usually mean that you are pregnant. Most home pregnancy testing kits show the results by means of a line to indicate a positive or a negative result. Dr. Traci Johnson on WebMD says that even if the line for a positive pregnancy test result is very faint, it still means you are pregnant.8 If your pregnancy test is positive, then it means that you should make an appointment to see your doctor. The earlier you can arrange for prenatal care, then the better health you and your baby will enjoy during pregnancy. Negative pregnancy results may not necessarily mean that implantation hasn't happened. You could still be pregnant because you tested too soon after implantation or you took the test the wrong way. Dr. Traci Johnson recommends retesting for a positive result in a week to check for pregnancy. If the HPT still tests negative over 10 days after your missed period, you should speak to your doctor. A late or missed period could be a result of a hormonal imbalance as well as emotional stress, excessive weight loss or gain and problems with pelvic organs.12 Early Signs of Pregnancy Very Soon After Implantation Even before an hCG pregnancy test becomes positive, you may have some signs of implantation that show up before a pregnancy test confirms that you are pregnant. Implantation spotting. Many women experience implantation spotting as one of the earliest pregnancy signs. Implantation bleeding looks like very light spotting that could be a rusty brown or light pink color. Spotting associated with implantation usually last up to 2 days. Implantation cramping. Around the time when the fertilized egg attaches to the uterine lining you might experience mild cramping. Implantation cramping usually happens just before or just after you notice implantation spotting. Breast tenderness. Doctors from the American Pregnancy Association say that your breasts may become sore when implantation happens. In fact, your breasts may appear swollen and tender even as early as 1 to 2 weeks after conception.11 Other signs of implantation or early pregnancy that you might notice before a pregnancy test tests positive are frequent urination, food aversions or cravings, backaches and headaches, and mood swings. If you notice these signs of pregnancy, and you know that you had intercourse around the time of ovulation, you should take a home pregnancy test. If the results are negative, they may become positive several days later as pregnancy hormone (hCG) increases. Read my other related articles: Article Sources Positive Pregnancy Test: When and How Long After Implantation was last modified: July 26th, 2018 by Jenny Hills, Nutritionist and Medical Writer Are you experiencing some spotting and wondering whether it's implantation bleeding? Or maybe your period is a day or so late, and you think you may be pregnant. If so, you're probably wondering how soon you can do a pregnancy test after implantation. We've been there. We know how slowly time passes when you're waiting to find out if you're pregnant. Every day feels like a week! But testing too early often leads to false results and disappointment. There are good reasons for holding off on testing for a couple of days. Let's look at what a pregnancy test detects and how soon you can test after implantation. What Is Implantation? Following fertilization, the egg travels down the fallopian tube to the uterus. The uterine lining, or endometrium, is ready to accept the fertilized egg. This journey usually takes about six to eight days to happen. On reaching the waiting uterus, the egg attaches itself and then burrows its way into the lining, preparing to grow. This implantation takes a few days to complete and can sometimes cause some light bleeding (1). Is It Implantation Bleeding or a Period? It's important to note that not all women will experience signs like bleeding or cramps to indicate implantation has happened. Every woman and every pregnancy is different. You can look out for a few things to distinguish between implantation bleeding and a normal period (2). Color and texture: Discharge or spotting from implantation bleeding will generally be dark brown or pinkish. Period blood will often be a vibrant red. There are usually no clots associated with implantation bleeding. Length of time you bleed: Implantation bleelasts only from a few hours to a few days while the egg attaches itself. It will usually be light and can stop and start. If your bleeding starts off light but then gets heavier and lasts for four days or more, it's likely your period. The time between ovulation and bleeding: Implantation bleeding will generally happen roughly ten days after ovulation: A period will usually be 14 days after. Cramping: Cramps associated with implantation are mild and go away quite quickly. Those associated with a period will be stronger. What Happens After Implantation? Let's explore what happens with hormones after the ovary releases an egg. During a woman's monthly cycle, an egg leaves the ovary, but the shell that contained the egg remains, called the corpus luteum. This is responsible for releasing the hormones estrogen and progesterone. It's the progesterone that we're interested in here, as it signals the lining of the uterus to prepare itself to receive a fertilized egg. If the egg does not implant, the progesterone levels drop again, and the uterine lining comes away, resulting in your monthly period. This takes place about two weeks after ovulation. If implantation happens, the uterus needs to signal the corpus luteum to continue producing progesterone to maintain the uterine lining. This is done by the newly forming placenta releasing a hormone called "human chorionic gonadotropin," or HCG. All women have small traces of HCG in their bodies at all times, but after implantation, these levels rise. HCG is the hormone that is tested to indicate a pregnancy. The amount of HCG typically found in the body won't be enough to give a positive test. However, during the first eight weeks of pregnancy, HCG levels double every couple of days. So while the waiting game might not be an easy one, just a few days can make a difference between a positive and negative test. Methods of Pregnancy Testing There are two ways of testing for HCG levels: urine or blood. 1. Urine Tests for HCG Home pregnancy tests have improved over the years and are now sensitive enough to detect small amounts of HCG in your urine. The sensitivity of the test is indicated on the packaging as an amount in mIU/ml (milli-international unit per milliliter). The lower the number of mIU/ml, the more sensitive the testing kit is. The range is usually between 10mIU/ml and 50 mIU/ml. Some of these tests might pick up enough HCG as soon as four days before your period is due. This is six to eight days after ovulation and conception (3). However, that is unusual, and it generally takes about 10 or more days after ovulation for a test to show a positive result. Even using the most sensitive of these tests, there might not be enough HCG to be detected yet. This can result in a false negative test, which may be upsetting. If you do have a negative test, wait a few days and test again. (Or, if you're like me, test daily until you are sure of your result.) Your urine hormone levels will eventually rise enough for the test to detect a pregnancy if you are, in fact, pregnant. 2. Blood Tests for HCG HCG can be detected in your blood a lot sooner than in urine. A positive blood test might be detected as soon as six to eight days after conception. You need to visit your doctor to have a blood test, but they will likely advise you to wait until after your missed period. Even if you do a home pregnancy test and get a positive result, your doctor may still do a blood test to confirm this. How Soon After Implantation Should I Take a Pregnancy Test? There is no definitive time for when you should take a pregnancy test after implantation. While you can take a test as soon as the first day of your missed period, it might be better to wait a week more. Many factors come into play as to how accurate the result might be. You might have conceived at the beginning of ovulation. In this case, you will likely get a positive test earlier than if you conceived at the end of ovulation. You might not know that implantation has taken place. Not all women experience implantation bleeding or any other symptoms indicating that it has occurred. Sometimes, a negative test might happen, even if you are convinced you have had implantation bleeding. These include ectopic pregnancies and tumors. Many women have irregular cycles due to stress, illness, or normal fluctuations. Timing can be unpredictable, even if your periods are regular. Nearly 70% of women reach their fertile window earlier or later than expected. This will impact when HCG is detectable in your urine. If you ovulate one week later than anticipated, you will need to wait an extra week to get a positive pregnancy test (4).Editor's Note: Caitlin Goodwin, MSN, RN, CNM What looks like implantation bleeding is sometimes unrelated luteal phase spotting caused by a second surge of estrogen. Many women experience this completely normal spotting without being pregnant, and many women become pregnant and never experience any implantation bleeding. There are other signs of early pregnancy that might prompt you to take a pregnancy test. These include tiredness, nausea, tender breasts, and, above all, a missed period. False Negative Pregnancy Tests When you're trying to get pregnant, the urge to test can be hard to resist. If you take a test and get a negative result, you could still be pregnant. These are some reasons you might get a negative result (5): You tested too early: The HCG levels in your urine might not have risen enough to be detected in your urine yet. Ideally, you should wait about seven days after a missed period to do a test. This way, the HCG levels will have increased, and that much-awaited "you're pregnant!" indicator will be there. You checked the test too soon: Follow the instructions carefully on the test, and give it the time needed — usually a minute or more — to do its work. Your urine was too diluted: The best time to take a pregnancy test is with your first urine of the day. The HCG levels will likely have built up overnight and can be detected easier. If your test is negative, wait a few days, then test again, particularly if you tested before or soon after a missed period. If you feel you are pregnant and are still getting negative test results or still don't get a period after a week, then see your doctor. Your doctor will probably do a blood test or an ultrasound scan to confirm a pregnancy or help discover the cause of your missed period. FAQs To Test or Not to Test Many pregnancy tests claim to be accurate from the first day of your missed period, or even earlier. This might not always be the case and you only put yourself through the unnecessary upset that comes with a negative test. Everyone differs in how quickly or how much HCG they produce after implantation, so now is the time to practice patience. Try to resist peeing on that stick, even though the little devil on your shoulder will be whispering in your ear, "do it." Feedback: Was This Article Helpful? Thank You For Your Feedback! Thank You For Your Feedback!