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What is a healthy hcg level at 5 weeks

Does pregnancy begin when the male and female chromosomes pair up with each other and the fertilized egg subsequently divides into a 2-cell embryo? Does it begin when the embryo implantation begins about 6 to 8 days after ovulation? Or, does it begin when the woman recognizes that she is pregnant after her missed menstrual period and positive pregnancy test? HCG levels in pregnancy HCG, or human chorionic gonadotropin, is a hormone made by the pregnancy that can be detected in the mother's blood or urine even before the woman's missed period. This hormone is what we look for with a "pregnancy test". HCG is first detectable in the blood as early as 7-8 days after ovulation by very sensitive HCG assays (research assays). In real life, blood pregnancy tests will be positive (> 2 mIU/ml) by 10-11 days after HCG injection or LH surge. In general, the HCG level will double every 2-3 days in early pregnancy. 85% of normal pregnancies will have the HCG level double every 72 hours. HCG levels peak at about 8-10 weeks of pregnancy and then decline, remaining at lower levels for the rest of the pregnancy. There is a large variation in a "normal" HCG level for any given time in pregnancy. Pregnancies destined to miscarry and ectopic (tubal) pregnancies tend to show lower levels (eventually), but often have normal levels initially. Learn about pregnancy after ectopic pregnancy Some normal pregnancies will have quite low levels of HCG - and deliver perfect babies. Caution must be used in making too much of HCG "numbers". Ultrasound findings after 5-6 weeks of pregnancy are much more predictive of pregnancy outcome than are HCG levels. For women that have had an HCG injection as part of their fertility treatment, the hormone takes about 5-14 days to clear from her system, depending on the dose and the individual woman. This can causes problems with interpretation of pregnancy tests done earlier than 14 days after an HCG injection. HCG levels from normal singleton pregnancies (and twins below) Levels are listed for various days after the ovulatory HCG injection or LH surge First (same as Third) International Reference Preparation was used "High" is highest seen in this group of pregnancies "Low" is lowest seen in this group of pregnancies "# " is the number of tests done for that day in this group of pregnancies The values below are from a group of 53 normal singleton pregnancies. Because this is a very small group of patients and because lab assays vary, it is important not to rely on these values to determine whether your pregnancy is viable, a single, a twin, etc. Check with your physician about your own levels Day after HCG or LH Average mIU/ml High mIU/ml Low mIU/ml # 14 48 119 17 12 15 59 147 17 18 16 95 223 33 23 17 132 429 17 21 18 292 758 70 19 19 303 514 111 23 20 522 1690 135 13 21 1061 4130 324 12 22 1287 3279 185 22 23 2034 4660 506 13 24 2637 10000 540 16 The information in the table above is part of a study carried out by Dr. Sherbahn that compared HCG levels from single, twin and heterotopic (combined intrauterine and ectopic) pregnancies. Ultrasound pictures in early pregnancy: Transvaginal ultrasounds of normal pregnancies at 5.5 weeks of gestation Gestational sac (black area) is seen with yolk sac inside. An identical (monozygotic) twin pregnancy at the same stage is shown as well as an early twin pregnancy showing non-identical (fraternal) twins. Transvaginal sonography (TVS) is the procedure of choice in evaluating the viability of embryos early in pregnancy. However, viability based on TVS can be assessed more accurately when the exact gestational age from the last menstrual period is known or when the findings are correlated with beta human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) levels. No large series has been reported with correlative data between early pregnancy findings, HCG, and gestational age. We performed 75 transvaginal examinations in 53 patients with proved normal pregnancy in the fifth through seventh weeks of gestation. The presence and size of the gestational sac, presence of a yolk sac, and identification of embryonic heart activity were correlated with the level of HCG. Sac size was correlated with yolk sac and heart activity and the three parameters correlated with gestational age in days. When the level of HCG reached 1000 mIU/ml by using the first International Reference Preparation, a gestational sac was seen sonographically in each patient. When the HCG level reached 7200 mIU/ml, a yolk sac was seen in every patient. Ten of 22 patients with HCG between 1000 and 7200 mIU/ml had a visible yolk sac. Every patient with an HCG level greater than 10,800 mIU/ml had a visible embryo with a heartbeat. A discriminatory level of 32 days was found for the presence of a gestational sac. A yolk sac was first seen in every patient between 36 and 40 days. Every patient with accurate dates greater than 40 days had an embryo with a heartbeat identified. When correlating sac size with structures within the sac, a yolk sac was first seen in a gestational sac between 6 and 9 mm and a heartbeat seen in every patient with a 9-mm or greater gestational sac diameter. These data allow identification of normal intrauterine pregnancy and distinction of normal from ectopic gestation at least 1 week earlier than is possible with transabdominal techniques. So you've missed your period and you're wondering what to do now! You're likely to go straight out and buy a home pregnancy test. But you might wonder how on earth peeing on a stick can give you the answer to your question: 'Am I pregnant?' Or you might wonder why you need a blood test when you visit your doctor. During early pregnancy, your body starts producing human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). hCG is commonly known as the pregnancy hormone and it's produced by the cells of what will become your baby's placenta. Your body begins to produce hCG once the embryo implants in the uterine wall. Let's explore what hCG levels are and what they should be each week of your pregnancy. What does hCG do? During pregnancy, hCG is responsible for maintaining a thick uterine lining. Without this hormone, the lining begins to shred, putting the pregnancy at risk. hCG is produced by cells that form the placenta, and this means it's not usually present in the body unless a woman is pregnant. In most, but not all, healthy pregnancies, hCG levels double every two or three days at the start of the pregnancy. As the pregnancy progresses, this rate might slow, doubling every four days, but hCG levels are expected to continue to rise until some time between weeks 8 and 11. Then the levels start to decrease, until week 16. After that, hCG levels stay stable until you give birth. Fertility drugs containing hCG can affect your hCG levels, so you should discuss this with your doctor before your levels are checked. Some pregnancy tests use hCG levels to date the pregnancy, but this can be wildly inaccurate, as levels vary between women. How can I check my hCG levels at home? Home pregnancy tests are now so sensitive they can detect human chorionic gonadotropin in the urine of pregnant women as early as 3 weeks after the first day of the last period. Taking a pregnancy test too early, though, can affect the results and cause a false-positive reading. False-positive pregnancy tests are very rare and you can read about them here. The best time to take a home test is after your missed period. This is the time the hCG levels in your urine will be higher and you'll be more likely to get a positive pregnancy result. A urine sample taken first thing in the morning will be more accurate, as the urine is more concentrated. What hCG level is considered pregnant? An hCG level of less than 5mIU/ml (milli-international units per milliliter) will give you a negative pregnancy test result. If your level of hCG is found to be 25mIU/ml or over, then you will get a positive pregnancy test result. What is the hCG level at one week? When a woman suspects she's pregnant it's usually because of a missed period. Ovulation occurs around day 14 of a 28-day menstrual cycle, and fertilisation usually occurs within 24 hours of ovulation. A few days after conception, the body sends signals to prepare for implantation and normal hCG levels start to rise. Instead of shedding the lining of the uterus (endometrium), the rising hormone detected in the blood maintains and nourishes it, in preparation for the egg to implant itself. The egg implants itself around 6-11 days after conception. At this point, you are officially pregnant. Technically, however, pregnancy starts from the first day of your last period, and at this stage, you're not actually pregnant! I know, it's confusing. Normal hCG levels in non-pregnant women average less than 5.0 mIU/ml, so at one week this is what is expected. hCG levels during pregnancy rise about three weeks after the first day of the last period. hCG levels by week It's not routine for hCG levels to be checked throughout pregnancy. This will only be done if you're showing symptoms of a possible problem. Firstly, it's important to remember there's no such thing as 'normal'. What's normal for you might not be normal to the next pregnant woman. And what's normal for your first pregnancy might not be normal for your second. The important part is the change in levels each week, not the individual result. The following levels are a rough guide. The chart shows an average level range for each week dated from the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP). hCG Levels During Pregnancy (from last menstrual period) Women who are not pregnant:

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