

Name of the test

Anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH)

Alternative name(s) of the test

Mullerian inhibiting factor (MIF); Mullerian-inhibiting substance (MIS); Mullerian-inhibiting hormone (MIH).

What is this test used for?

This test measures the amount of AMH in the blood. AMH is a hormone produced by testicles in males and ovaries in females. During prenatal development, AMH plays an important role in sexual differentiation in a fetus - it inhibits development of female reproductive organs in males. In females, AMH is very low until puberty and then its levels start increasing. Later, as the woman approaches menopause period, AMH levels decrease and after the menopause it becomes undetectable. AMH levels may become high if a woman has polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) or some ovarian tumors.

The AMH test, along with other tests, is used to determine a woman's likelihood of conceiving, to predict the onset of menopause and to evaluate PCOS or effectiveness of ovarian cancer treatment.

When is the test ordered?

The AMH test is usually ordered along with other tests. It is performed in the following conditions:

- when a woman has symptoms of PCOS
- to evaluate effectiveness of ovarian cancer treatment and to monitor the disease
- to predict the onset of menopause
- when a woman has fertility issues AMH is performed to evaluate ovarian function. This test is often ordered before undergoing IVF (in vitro fertilization).
- In male infants the test may be ordered, when there are signs that the testicles are absent or are not functioning properly.

How is this test performed?

A blood sample is taken from a vein.

How to prepare for the test

No special preparation is needed.

Interpretation of results

Higher-than-normal levels of AMH may be due to PCOS or ovarian cancer.

Lower-than-normal levels of AMH may indicate low ovarian reserve, which in turn means that there will be decreased responsiveness to IVF.

In women, AMH is low before puberty and becomes undetectable - after menopause.