



Department of Anesthesia

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Guidelines for Pregnancy Screening

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GUIDELINES FOR PREGNANCY SCREENING

These guidelines apply to women of child-bearing age (generally 13-55 years of age)

Women who are about to have surgery should undergo urine or serum pregnancy testing (serum β HCG) to confirm the non-pregnant state under the following conditions:

1. For women who admit to regular menstrual cycles (menses monthly), urine testing should be performed if the usual interval between menses has passed since the last menstrual period. For example, if a woman usually has menses every 4 weeks and 4 weeks or more have passed since the last menstrual period, then testing should be accomplished. There is no rationale for testing prior to 4 weeks from the last period, since the test likely would be negative even if the woman were pregnant.
2. For women who have irregular menses, don't know when their last menses occurred, or who are amenorrheic, urine testing should be accomplished if pregnancy is suspected or likely possible.
3. If there is a real concern about pregnancy - i.e. patient states she trying to conceive and menses are due the day of surgery, a serum β HCG may be indicated. It could be positive as early as the day menses are due (about 8 days after implantation of embryo which translates to day 14 after ovulation).
4. In all cases, the attending surgeon may request a urine screen or β HCG for their own reasons

In summary:

AGE	Menstrual Hx	Interval Since Last Menses	Pregnancy Possible by Hx	Urine Screen
12-50	Regular	>4 weeks	Yes/No	Yes
12-50	Regular	<4 weeks	Yes	No value, most likely negative
12-50	Amenorrheic	-----	Yes	Yes
12-50	Irregular	Variable	Yes	Yes