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## **Pyelectasis**

Pyelectasis is a collection of fluid in the central area or “pelvis” of the kidney. This collection causes the pelvis to dilate or grow in size, and this can be seen when an ultrasound is done.

Pyelectasis occurs in about 1% of pregnancies and is more common in male than in female fetuses. Pyelectasis is typically graded in terms of severity (how much fluid is present). Mild pyelectasis frequently disappears as pregnancy progresses. More severe pyelectasis may indicate a blockage in urine flow, and occasionally babies with pyelectasis need surgery after birth. Often a repeat ultrasound is performed in the third trimester to reassess the amount of fluid present.

Pyelectasis is also more common in babies with Down Syndrome, but the vast majority of babies with pyelectasis are chromosomally normal. If no other abnormalities were seen on your ultrasound you are NOT at an increased risk for having a baby with Down Syndrome. If other abnormalities suggesting Down Syndrome are seen, amniocentesis will be discussed with you.