

# Succenturiate or bilobed placenta

Patient Information Series – What you should know. what you should ask.

## What is a succenturiate or bilobed placenta?

Normally, a placenta looks like one round disc. A succenturiate or bilobed placenta is a difference in the shape of the placenta that can sometimes be seen on ultrasound. In these types of placentas, there is an extra lobe to the placenta. A “succenturiate lobe” is a smaller lobe compared to the main lobe. Bilobed means the two lobes of the placenta are about the same size.

## Why do succenturiate or bilobed placentas happen?

It is uncertain why these types of placenta happen. It may be due to the way blood flow to the placenta has developed.

There is some evidence that suggests that this may be more common to happen in pregnancies after in vitro fertilization, although the reason for this is not known.

## What are the things to watch for during the pregnancy?

The most important thing to check for when a pregnant person has a succenturiate or bilobed placenta is the presence of blood vessels running between the two lobes *that pass close to the cervix*. This condition where there are blood vessels belonging to the baby close to the cervix is called *vasa previa*. Vasa previa can be a dangerous condition, because if the membranes break, the vessels can bleed leading to the baby losing a lot of blood.

It is very important to determine if there is vasa previa if there is a bilobed or succenturiate lobe placenta. This is done by ultrasound during the pregnancy.

## What does it mean for my baby after it is born?

After the baby is born, it is important that both lobes of the placenta have delivered. Your doctor or midwife will check the placenta to make sure that all the pieces are there after delivery.

## Will it happen again?

There does not seem to be a higher likelihood of having this type of placenta if it has happened before.

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