

Which sex is my child?

Dear Dilys,

Is it possible to know the sex of my child in the early days of pregnancy? If yes, which clinic can do that and how much will it cost me? If not, which clinic can help me choosing the sex of my child? I will appreciate if you can give priority to my question because it's very urgent for me. Thanks for your co-operation.

MM

Dear MM,

The earliest you can have an ultra-sound scan to determine the sex of a baby is 20 weeks, and even then it is not 100 per cent accurate. But no reputable clinic will do such a scan for sexing

reasons alone. Other tests to sex a baby (like amniocentesis) would also only ever be performed if there were some risk of a serious genetic condition affecting only one sex. There are clinics that advertise a service to sex a baby but they'll take a lot of money from you (around £4,000), promising between a 75 per cent and 90 per cent rate of accuracy. But it won't get you very far because abortion is illegal in this country on sex grounds alone. As for pre-determining the sex of a baby, currently any clinic offering sperm-sorting techniques in the UK will be unlicensed and unregulated – so beware of any promises they make.