



Maternal Fetal Medicine of Central Pennsylvania

Firs Trimester Screening

This test is a combined Ultrasound and Blood Test that:

- Gives You and Your Doctor Information about Your Baby's Health.
- Helps Identify Babies Who May Have Down Syndrome or Trisomy 18
- Is Safe and Accurate
- Can Be Done As Early As 11 Weeks in the Pregnancy

Please Contact Our Office to Speak with a Genetic Counselor Who Can Answer Your Questions.

All of our physicians and sonographers are certified to perform NT (nuchal translucency) measurements used in first trimester screening. This certification allows for proper quality control and accurate risk assessment. Maternal Fetal Medicine of Central PA is also accredited by the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine.

100 S. 2nd Street
Suite 4b
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Tele: 717-231-8472
Fax: 717-231-8490

What is First Trimester Screening?

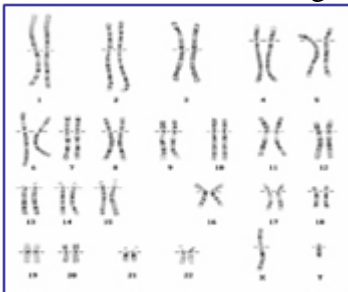
It is a combination of an ultrasound and maternal blood test to screen for Down Syndrome and Trisomy 18 in a pregnancy. The test is performed between 11 and 14 weeks of pregnancy. The ultrasound will measure the nuchal translucency (NT), which is the amount of fluid accumulation behind the baby's neck, and the overall size of the baby. The maternal blood test consists of a finger-stick or venipuncture to measure two pregnancy related proteins, PAPP-A and free Beta hCG™. The ultrasound measurements will be combined with the results of the blood test to estimate a specific risk for Down syndrome and Trisomy 18. Genetic counseling before the test will ensure informed decision-making. NOTE: This is a screening test, not a diagnostic test. Thus, if the test result does not fall in the normal range, it does not necessarily mean there is a problem with your baby, only that further testing is indicated.



12 week Fetus
Nuchal Translucency:
Measurement of fluid
accumulation at the
back of the neck

WHAT IS DOWN SYNDROME?

Down syndrome (Trisomy 21) is a chromosomal disorder which causes physical and mental retardation and birth defects which may involve the heart and/or digestive tract. The degree of physical and mental retardation for individuals affected by Down syndrome varies greatly. For some it is moderate, for others it is severe. Down syndrome affects approximately 1 in 800 babies. Women age 35 years and over are more likely to have a baby affected with Down syndrome. However, most cases of Down syndrome occur in women under age 35.



Normal Chromosomes:
Total of 46, or 23 pairs

WHAT IS TRISOMY 18

Trisomy 18 is a more severe chromosomal disorder which causes profound mental retardation and multiple birth defects. Few babies with Trisomy 18 live longer than a year. Like Down syndrome, the chances of having a pregnancy with Trisomy 18 increases with maternal age.

THE RESULTS

About 90% of babies with Down syndrome and Trisomy 18 will have a positive result from First Trimester Screening. However, a negative screening result does not eliminate the possibility that the baby may have Down syndrome, Trisomy 18 or other chromosomal abnormalities. Furthermore, the screening result does not eliminate the possibilities of birth defects, mental retardation or other disorders not detectable by prenatal screening. Please remember, the decision to have screening performed is your personal decision. If this test shows you have an increased risk, it does not mean that your baby has a problem, only that further evaluation of your pregnancy is indicated. Genetic counseling and diagnostic testing is available if the results indicate an increased risk.