

What happens if screening results indicate an increased risk?

If these screening tests show an increased chance of a health problem, diagnostic tests will be offered. These tests are able to tell “yes” or “no” about chromosome changes or genetic diseases but they have a small risk for miscarriage. Diagnostics tests include Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) in the first trimester and amniocentesis in the second trimester.

Do normal or low-risk results guarantee a healthy baby?

Unfortunately, the answer to this question is no. There are no tests available that can guarantee that your baby will be born healthy. However, the chance for these problems is low and most babies are born healthy.



Suggested Sources for Online Information

OHSU Perinatal Center

www.ohsuhealth.com/perinatal

Ultrasound

www.ob-ultrasound.net

Trisomy 18

www.trisomy.org

Down syndrome

www.ndss.org

www.nwdsa.org

Genetic conditions

www.yourgenesyourhealth.org

(Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease and other genetic conditions)

March of Dimes

www.modimes.org

(Amniocentesis, CVS, maternal blood sampling, ultrasound, genetic counseling)



The knowledge of all for the care of **one**.

The Prenatal Diagnosis Program is part of the OHSU Center for Women's Health. Our genetic counselors work together with your obstetric provider, perinatologist, other genetic counselors, radiologists and other highly skilled specialists.

We are here to provide you with the highest, most comprehensive level of health care. At OHSU, outstanding prenatal care is tailored to your individual needs, from preconception through birth.

Please call the OHSU Center for Women's Health at 503 418-4500 to schedule an appointment

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OHSU accepts most health plans. CWH 3049072 1/14*

Should I Have Prenatal Screening?





What is Prenatal Screening?

Prenatal screening uses blood or ultrasound tests to measure the likelihood a growing baby has a birth defect, chromosome variation or genetic disorder. Screening tests cannot tell for sure whether the developing baby is healthy or not, but there is no risk to the pregnancy. Screening tests can be done in the first or second trimesters of pregnancy. The conditions most commonly screened for are Down syndrome, trisomy 18 and open spina bifida.

What are Down syndrome, trisomy 18 and open spina bifida?

Down syndrome

Children and adults with Down syndrome vary a lot in how they look, their personality and their abilities. They have

learning difficulties, some more serious than others. They may also have heart defects and a unique facial appearance. Down syndrome is caused by an extra chromosome 21. It is not usually passed down in families, but occurs by chance at conception. The odds of having a baby with Down syndrome increase slightly as the mother's age increases, but women of all ages can have a baby with Down syndrome.

Trisomy 18

This condition is also caused by an extra chromosome. Most pregnancies with trisomy 18 end in miscarriage and most babies born with the condition pass away shortly after birth. Some children with trisomy 18 can live several months or even a few years, but have disabilities. Like Down syndrome, the chance to have a baby with trisomy 18 increases with age.

Spina Bifida

This birth defect is an opening along part of the baby's spine. Children with spina bifida can have physical and intellectual disabilities. The chance to have a baby with spina bifida does not increase with age, but women with diabetes or poor nutrition before pregnancy may be at higher risk.

What will my results show?

Results will show the numerical risk, or chance, for Down syndrome, trisomy 18 and open spina bifida. Sometimes a screening tests fails to alert us that a baby has one of these health problems. This is called a "false negative" result.

Sometimes a test will show a high risk result when the baby does not really have the condition. This is called a "false positive" result.

Why do some women choose to have screening?

Some women want to know if their unborn baby is going to have health problems so they can prepare for special health care needs or have the option to end their pregnancy depending on the condition and their preferences.

Why do some women choose not to have screening?

Some women prefer to wait until birth because nothing can be done to fix or change these problems. Others are afraid that false positive results will create unnecessary anxiety.