



CARING CENTER FOR
WOMEN^{PA}

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OPTIONAL SCREENING TESTS FOR BIRTH DEFECTS

I. SCREENING TESTS:

Two or three of every one hundred babies born will have a birth defect. There are several screening tests which can identify women who will have a greater chance of having a baby with a birth defect. These tests do not tell us that the baby has a problem, but they do tell us what other tests, such as ultrasound and amniocentesis, can be offered to see which babies really have a problem. Even when a screening test shows the baby to be at risk, most babies (approximately 95%) will be normal.

The options listed below range from the simplest to the most complex tests. Please remember that if your test result does not fall within the normal range, it only means that further testing may be indicated. You will receive counseling about the options available from your physician.

Option 1: Ultra Screen - A test for Down's or similar genetic abnormalities.

This is a safe and accurate test consisting of a combination of ultrasound exam and blood test. This is a screening test which determines how likely it is that your baby has Down Syndrome or trisomy 18. This test is performed between 11-13 weeks of pregnancy.

Option 2: Quadruple Screening - A test of Down's and nervous system defects.

This blood test detects a high proportion of the most common birth defects. This test can be performed using a blood sample from the mother between 15-20 weeks of pregnancy.

Option 3: Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) - Tests for birth defects caused by abnormal chromosomes. This test involves taking a tiny tissue sample from outside the gestational sac where the fetus develops. The tissue is tested to diagnose or rule out certain birth defects. This test is usually offered when there is an increased risk of birth defect. It is performed between 9-11 weeks of pregnancy.

Option 4: Amniocentesis.

This test is usually offered when there is an increased risk of chromosomal or genetic birth defects or certain malformations. A small sample of the amniotic fluid



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surrounding the fetus is removed and examined. It is performed between 15-18 weeks of pregnancy.

II. Tests are optional

These tests are not required as part of your prenatal care. Some families choose to have the testing because they want to know if there is a problem. Some families choose NOT to be tested because they do not want to know if there is a problem or feel that they would not do anything differently even if a problem was found.

III. Cost of Tests

You may want to check with your insurance company PRIOR to having tests done, to find out whether or not the insurance company covers the cost of testing. Many insurance companies will NOT cover screening tests.

IV. Decision About Testing

Your doctor or his/her associates would like to know your decision about having these tests. Since the tests can only be done between 9 and 19 weeks of pregnancy, please tell your physician or other provider (nurse practitioner) what you would like to do as soon as possible. This form will be kept in your chart.

- I want screening testing.
- I DO NOT want screening testing.
- I want genetic counseling.
- I DO NOT want genetic counseling.

Print Name _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____