PRENATAL TESTS

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FIRST TRIMESTER PRENATAL TESTS

These tests can be performed at the IHS prenatal clinic or with other prenatal healthcare providers. If these tests aren't

offered to you during your first trimester, make sure to ask for them.

- First trimester screening
  - Two-part procedure, including an ultrasound and a blood test
  - Determines whether your baby may be at risk for some chromosomal problems, such as Down syndrome
  - Done between 11-14 weeks of pregnancy
- Chorionic villus sampling (CVS)
  - Tests a small piece of tissue from the placenta for genetic conditions, such as Down Syndrome

- May be offered if you are 35 or older or have a genetic condition that you could pass on to your baby

- May be offered if your first trimester screening showed that your baby is at an increased risk for birth defects

- Usually performed between 11 and 13 weeks of pregnancy

◊ Blood tests for different conditions depending on your family history

◊ Blood test for Cystic Fibrosis (CF)

- Determines if you are a carrier of the gene for cystic fibrosis

- CF is a disease that affects

breathing and digestion. It is a lifelong disease that cannot be cured but can be treated.

- CF is more common in Caucasians but is found in all ethnic groups.

- Most commonly conducted in first trimester, but can be done at any time during pregnancy

Carriers of the CF gene are not affected by the disease but can pass the gene to their baby. If the father is also a carrier, there is a chance that your baby will have the disease.

SECOND TRIMESTER

PRENATAL TESTS

- Maternal blood screening (Quad screen)
  - Blood test to determine risk for (1) Down Syndrome, (2) Spina Bifida, and (3) Trisomy 18
    - Measures four substances in your blood: alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), estriol, human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) and inhibin A
  - Done between 15 to 21 weeks of pregnancy
- Amniocentesis (Amnio)
  - Tests the amniotic fluid around your baby to check for genetic conditions, like Down Syndrome

- May be offered if you are 35 or older or have a genetic condition that you could pass on to your baby

- May be offered if your first trimester screening showed that your baby is at an increased risk for birth defects

- Done between 15 to 20 weeks of pregnancy

◊ Glucose screening

- Determines if you have gestational diabetes (see “Complications” section)

- You will drink a glucose liquid, and a blood test will be done after one hour to check your glucose levels.

- If your glucose levels are high, you will be asked to do the same procedure on a different day, and your blood will be tested hourly for three hours.

- Done at 24 to 28 weeks of pregnancy

THIRD TRIMESTER PRENATAL TESTS

◊ Group B Strep (GBS)

- Checks fluid from your vagina and perineum for GBS

You can pass GBS to your baby during birth. Many adults carry GBS without ever showing symptoms, but in newborns, it can cause meningitis, sepsis, pneumonia and death.

- If your test is positive, you should receive treatment during birth to prevent your baby from becoming infected. This treatment is usually an antibiotic through IV.

- Done around 36 weeks of pregnancy