PRENATAL GENETIC TESTING CHART

Related FAQS:

- Prenatal Genetic Screening Tests: www.acog.org/Patients/FAQs/Prenatal-Genetic-Screening-Tests
- Prenatal Genetic Diagnostic Tests: www.acog.org/Patients/FAQs/Prenatal-Genetic-Diagnostic-Tests

Screening Tests

These tests can tell you the chances that your unborn baby will have certain genetic disorders.

First-trimester screening
- Timing: 10–13 weeks
- Blood test plus NT ultrasound exam
- Screens for Down syndrome and trisomy 18

Second-trimester screening ("quad screen")
- Timing: 15–22 weeks
- Blood test
- Screens for Down syndrome, trisomy 13, trisomy 18, and NTDs

Standard ultrasound exam
- Timing: 18–22 weeks
- Screens for some physical defects

Integrated screening and sequential screening
- Timing: 10–22 weeks
- Combines first-trimester and second-trimester screening test results in various ways
- Screens for Down syndrome, trisomy 13, trisomy 18, and NTDs

Cell-free DNA screening
- Timing: 10 weeks and beyond
- Blood test
- Screens for Down syndrome, trisomy 18, and, in some labs, trisomy 13
- The test is more accurate for women at high risk or who have had a positive screening test result

Carrier testing
- Timing: Can be done at any time but is ideally performed before pregnancy
- Tests use blood or tissue sample (tissue from inside the cheek)
- Detects whether you, your partner, or both carry a gene for certain genetic disorders

Diagnostic Tests

These tests can tell you whether your baby actually has certain genetic disorders.

CVS
- Timing: 10–13 weeks
- Tests fetal cells in a sample of chorionic villi
- Detects Down syndrome, trisomy 13, trisomy 18, and inherited disorders for which you request testing but not NTDs

Amniocentesis
- Timing: 15–20 weeks
- Tests fetal cells in a sample of amniotic fluid
- Detects Down syndrome, trisomy 13, trisomy 18, inherited disorders for which you request testing, and certain types of NTDs

Weeks 1–4	Weeks 5–8	Weeks 9–12	Weeks 13–16	Weeks 17–20	Weeks 21–24	Weeks 25–28

Weeks of Pregnancy

Prepregnancy	First Trimester	Second Trimester

Abbreviations: CVS, chorionic villus sampling; NT, nuchal translucency; NTD, neural tube defect

Note: Check your local and state laws regarding the timing and availability of prenatal genetic testing.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS
409 12th Street SW, PO Box 96920
Washington, DC 20090-6920
www.acog.org