

QUAD-SCREEN TESTING

Birth defects are rare. Ninety-seven percent of babies are born without major birth defects. The cause for most birth defects cannot be determined.

There are tests available that can give a pregnant woman an indication of her risk for having a baby affected by certain birth defects, such as Down Syndrome, Trisomy 18 and Spina Bifida. The Quad-Screen test is a test done on the mother's blood to determine her risk for having a baby affected by one of these disorders.

Down Syndrome is caused by a chromosomal abnormality affecting the number 21 chromosome. Trisomy 18 is caused by a chromosomal abnormality at the number 18 chromosome. These are two of the most common chromosomal abnormalities. Down Syndrome occurs in 1 out of 800 births. Its risk increases as the mother's age increases and may also increase with a family history of Down Syndrome. Trisomy 18 occurs in approximately 1 in 5000 births.

Spina Bifida and other open neural tube defects are caused by an abnormal formation of the spinal cord, brain or their covering membranes. It occurs in 1 of 500 births.

The Quad-Screen test measures alpha-fetoprotein, human chorionic gonadotropin, inhibin A, and estriol in the mother's blood. By matching these levels with other factors such as maternal age, weeks of pregnancy, race, diabetic status, maternal weight and number of fetuses, the test can indicate a mother's risk of having a baby affected by one of these disorders. The Quad-Screen test is drawn between 14 and 22 weeks of pregnancy. A sonogram is usually done in early pregnancy for accurate dating of the pregnancy.

The Quad-Screen test is a screening test that only assesses risk. It does not give a diagnosis, but may indicate if further testing should be considered. That further testing may be in the form of a more detailed sonogram and/or amniocentesis.

Amniocentesis is a test that withdraws amniotic fluid from the uterus in order to do chromosomal analysis for the definitive diagnosis of Down Syndrome or Trisomy 18. Analysis of amniotic fluid for alpha-fetoprotein may also give more definitive indication of Spina Bifida, spinal cord formation abnormalities or brain formation abnormalities.

There is no one test or combination of tests that can guarantee that a baby will be normal at birth. Most women with abnormal screening tests will have normal babies.



Quad-Screen Consent

Patient Name: _____

1. I have read the Quad-Screen information handout
2. I understand this test is offered to all women between the gestational ages of 15 to 20 weeks
3. I understand that this test is completely optional and I may decline at my request
4. It has been explained to me that the main purpose of the test is to detect fetuses with neural tube defects, such as Spina Bifida and Anencephaly. This test also may detect other birth defects such as abdominal wall defects, Down's Syndrome and Trisomy 18.
5. I understand that this test can detect:
 - a. Almost all fetuses with Anencephaly and about 8 out of 10 fetuses with an open Spina Bifida.
 - b. Most fetuses with abdominal wall defects.
 - c. About 1 out of 5 fetuses with Down's Syndrome.
6. I understand that if this test is abnormal that further testing will be recommended such as amniocentesis. Further testing will be discussed if needed.
7. I understand that there are many other birth defects not detected from this test.
8. I understand that if the fetus has a birth defect, the decision to continue the pregnancy will be entirely mine.

I understand that this testing is completely optional.

Yes I request that blood be drawn for the Quad-Screen screening test.

Signature

Date

No I decline to have blood drawn for the Quad-Screen screening test.

GA at Sono: ___ W ___ D Sono Date: _____ Race: _____ DOB: _____

LMP: _____ EDC: _____ LMP/SONO Weight: _____

Single Gestation Twins NTD History: _____ Diabetic Y/N Smoker: Y/N

Initial/Repeat