Cell-free DNA (cfDNA) Screening
No Results

As part of your prenatal care, you had a blood test to screen for chromosome conditions in the fetus.

NO RESULT was able to be obtained

Why didn't I get a cfDNA screening result?

This can happen when there is not enough fetal DNA to study or a sample does not pass all the quality control steps at the lab. It happens a little more often in:

- Twin pregnancies
- People with a high body weight
- Pregnancies conceived by in-vitro fertilization (IVF)

Does this mean there is a problem?

Usually not…most pregnancies that get no result from cfDNA screening are healthy. However, getting no result may increase the possibility of a chromosome condition in the baby by a small amount.

Did you know?

- cfDNA looks at tiny bits of DNA that are found in the blood.
- Only a small amount of the DNA in a cfDNA sample comes from the pregnancy. Most of the DNA is from the person being tested.
- Fetal DNA comes from the placenta not directly from the baby.
- Fetal DNA is complex, which can make it hard to get a result.

What can I do next?

There are several options you can choose for your next step.

- **Repeat cfDNA screening** – You may be able to get a result the second time you do testing. About 2 out of 3 (67%) repeat tests return a result on the second try. Repeat testing is less likely to give a result in twins. You will know within two weeks if repeat testing is successful. Repeat testing is only done once. You will be offered a different test if there is no result after a second try. When a different test is needed, it could be several weeks before you get information about the baby.
- **Take a different screening test** – Instead of doing cfDNA screening, you could have AFP4 or quad screening. This is a general screening test for birth defects. It screens for Down syndrome and trisomy 18. Other chromosome conditions may be identified. It also screens for neural tube defects (an opening in the spine). In twin pregnancies, ultrasound is done to screen for trisomy 18 and other conditions.
- **Have a diagnostic test** – A diagnostic test, like CVS or amniocentesis, can tell you if the baby has a chromosome condition. Unlike screening tests, a diagnostic test gives you a final answer. No other testing is needed. These tests have a very small risk (about 1 in 1000) for miscarriage.
- **Decline all follow-up testing** – Testing for chromosome conditions is optional and you do not have to do any further testing.