

OPTIONS FOR PRENATAL SCREENING

Prenatal screening refers to a range of tests which help to estimate the risk of a baby being affected with Down syndrome or another chromosomal problem. Typically, prenatal screening is one of the first issues a woman considers after discovering she is pregnant and many couples are understandably confused at the different testing options available. As a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist, Dr. Colin Walsh is an expert in the options for prenatal screening and can offer couples up to date, evidence-based advice to help them make the best decision. The team at **SHORE FOR WOMEN** are highly experienced and fully accredited by the Fetal Medicine Foundation to perform all aspects of prenatal screening and diagnosis.

NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY (NT) SCREENING

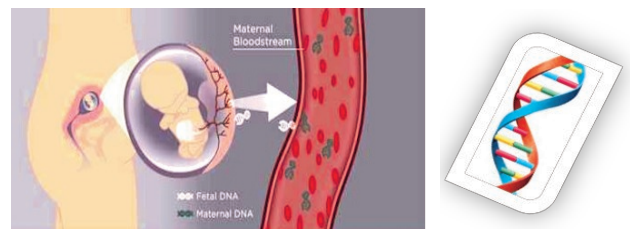
- This is the most common test performed worldwide
- NT screening must be performed at 11-14 weeks
- Test comprises an ultrasound scan and blood test



- The scan should only be performed by accredited fetal medicine specialists or sonographers
- Detects 90% of babies with Down syndrome
- Results are available immediately after scan

NON-INVASIVE PRENATAL TESTING (NIPT)

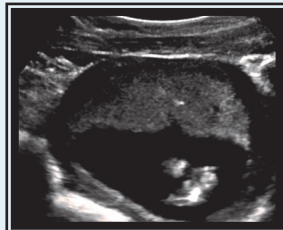
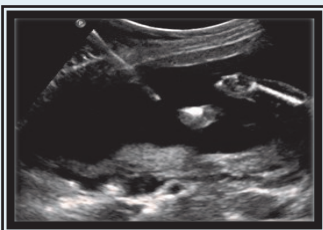
- Rapidly gaining in popularity
- NIPT can be performed after 10 weeks
- Test comprises a maternal blood test, from which fetal DNA is extracted for testing



- Advanced screening test - detects 99.5% of babies with Down syndrome
- Only available privately - the cost is \$450
- Waiting time for results is approx. 1 week

CVS OR AMNIOCENTESIS

- Gold standard tests for prenatal diagnosis
- Suitable for couples who want 100% certainty or who receive a "high-risk" screening result
- Needle is inserted to obtain a small sample of placenta (CVS) or amniotic fluid (amniocentesis)



- CVS available after 11 weeks; amniocentesis can be performed any time from 15-40 weeks
- Both tests carry a 0.5-1% risk of miscarriage

MATERNAL SERUM SCREENING

Maternal blood sample is collected at 14-20 weeks and tested for 3 (triple) or 4 (quadruple) special pregnancy blood hormones / proteins

Uncommon in contemporary practice - has largely been superseded by newer options

Occasionally still used for women who are too late for NT screening (>14 weeks)

NO PRENATAL SCREENING

- ◆ Some couple elect not to undergo prenatal screening, either because of personal or religious reasons or because the results would not alter their decisions about the pregnancy
- ◆ You are perfectly entitled to decline the options for screening and we will support you in your decision if this is the right choice for you

Every pregnancy is different and every couple has different worries and concerns about the best screening options for them. At **SHORE FOR WOMEN** we have performed prenatal screening for more than 500 couples. We are experts in all testing options and can help you make the best choice for you and your baby.