

The California Prenatal Screening Program
**Results for Screening in the
Second Trimester**

Quad Marker Screening, or
Serum Integrated Screening, or
Full Integrated Screening



Positive T21—2T

**The result of your Second Trimester blood test is:
“Screen Positive for Down Syndrome”**

This means there is an increased risk that the
fetus may have a birth defect called Down Syndrome

As part of your prenatal care, you had a blood test between 15 and 20 weeks. You may also have had:

- a first trimester blood test and/or
- nuchal translucency ultrasound

Your Screening results include any of these tests that were done. The Screening results tell you the *risk*, or chance, that there is a certain birth defect. For example, a risk could be 1 in 40 or 1 in 5,000.

The result of your Screening test was “Screen Positive for Down syndrome”. The risk of your fetus having Down syndrome is _____.

What is Down syndrome?

It is a birth defect which causes mental retardation and some serious health problems. It is caused by an extra chromosome #21. Chromosomes are packages of genetic information found in every cell of the body. Birth defects can occur when there are too few or too many chromosomes.

Does the “Screen Positive” result mean that the fetus really does have Down syndrome?

No... Most women with this test result have normal, healthy babies.

What can you do next?

Follow-up testing to know for sure if the fetus has Down syndrome (*see page 2*).

Follow-up testing . . .

There are no additional charges for these authorized services at a State-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Center.

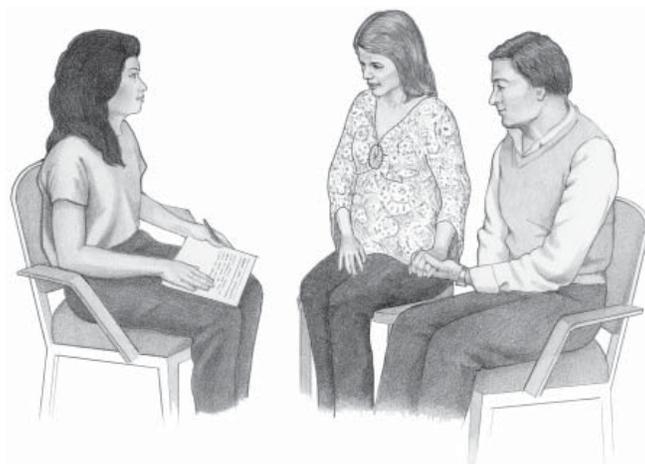
The follow-up services that are offered are:

- Genetic Counseling
- Ultrasound
- Amniocentesis

Genetic counseling is the first service

A genetic counselor discusses your screening results and what they mean. Your family's health history is also reviewed. The counselor will give you information about the follow-up testing available to you. **You may decline any services or tests at any time.** Be sure to talk with the counselor about any questions you may have.

The counselor will explain that you have testing options to choose from after a "Screen Positive" result. Ultrasound, and amniocentesis are discussed on the next pages.



Ultrasound at a State-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Center

This test is also called a sonogram. This high level ultrasound is done between **15 and 24 weeks**. It is a very detailed picture of the fetus done by doctors with special training.

An ultrasound can help determine the age of the fetus. It may identify some birth defects or abnormalities. However, it is **not** a diagnostic test for Down syndrome.

You can have this high level ultrasound even if you decline Amniocentesis.



Amniocentesis at 15 – 24 weeks

This diagnostic test involves removing a small amount of the fluid around the fetus. A thin needle is used to remove a small quantity of the fluid. The fetus is not touched. This fluid contains cells from the fetus. The chromosomes in these cells are counted and examined.

Amniocentesis can tell if the fetus has Down syndrome. It can also detect 99% of other chromosomal birth defects. Amniocentesis is considered a safe test when done by medical experts at a State-approved Prenatal Diagnosis Center. The risk of miscarriage due to amniocentesis is small – less than 1% .

The results of the amniocentesis are ready in about 2 weeks. Most results are normal.

What if Down Syndrome is found?

A doctor or genetic counselor would give you information about Down syndrome. Infants with this birth defect are moderately retarded; a few are mildly or severely retarded. Heart defects are common. These heart defects can usually be treated with surgery and medications. Other serious health problems often exist with Down syndrome. Medical treatment can help some of these problems.

Special programs are available throughout California to help children and adults with Down syndrome to achieve their full potential.

Options for continuing or ending the pregnancy will be discussed during counseling. The decision is entirely up to you.

The California Prenatal Screening Program does not pay for any other medical services after the follow-up tests and counseling. Referral for medical care and support services are available.

Please Remember:

Most women who have “Screen Positive” results have normal, healthy babies.

The California Prenatal Screening Program

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For more information see our website:
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/pns



4/2009