

# Prenatest<sup>®</sup>

Prenatal Screening Test  
3<sup>rd</sup> generation

1<sup>st</sup>  
Trimester



**WARNEX**  
MEDICAL LABORATORIES

# Prenatest®\*

## PRENATAL SCREENING TEST

There are many ways your healthcare provider can check on the health of your baby. This pamphlet describes a prenatal screening test that is performed very early in your pregnancy. This test does not provide a final diagnosis on the health of your baby, but it lets you know whether there is a high risk of your baby having Down syndrome or trisomy 18.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> generation test, the **Prenatest** method offers the highest accuracy in prenatal screening of Down syndrome.

### KNOWING YOUR RISK

The **Prenatest** prenatal screening test lets you know your risk of carrying a foetus that is affected by one of the most common birth anomalies: trisomy 21 (Down syndrome), trisomy 18, and other chromosomal anomalies (ex. trisomy 13).

Simple and quick, the **Prenatest** screening test involves the collection of a few drops of blood from the tip of your finger combined with an ultrasound.

Ask your doctor for a prescription for the **Prenatest** first trimester screening test. You can then contact us and we will direct you to a centre near you for the blood collection and ultrasound.

### CONTACT US AT



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\*Prenatest is a registered trademark of Warnex Inc., Laval, Quebec.

## WHAT IS Down Syndrome ?

Down syndrome or trisomy 21 is a genetic anomaly that occurs at conception when the foetus receives three copies of chromosome 21 instead of two. Down syndrome gives rise to intellectual and physical handicaps (including cardiac malformations in 40% of cases) for which it is impossible to predict the degree of severity. All pregnant women can bring to term a pregnancy in which the foetus has Down syndrome and there is no curative treatment. The risk of having a baby with Down syndrome varies, depending on the age of the mother.

MATERNAL AGE (YEARS)	RISK OF DOWN SYNDROME <sup>1</sup>
20	1 in 1527
25	1 in 1352
30	1 in 895
32	1 in 659
34	1 in 446
36	1 in 280
38	1 in 167
40	1 in 97
42	1 in 55

80% of babies born with a trisomy are from mothers aged 35 years and under<sup>2</sup>

## WHAT IS Trisomy 18 ?

Trisomy 18 is a genetic anomaly (also referred to as Edward's syndrome) that occurs at conception when the foetus receives three copies of chromosome 18 instead of two. In most cases, the foetus does not survive to birth.

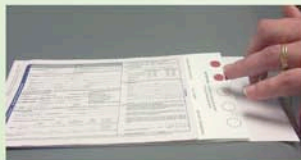
<sup>1</sup> Source: Fetal Medicine Foundation

<sup>2</sup> Source: Canadian Down Syndrome Society

# A Quick and Easy

## METHOD

### BLOOD DRAW



A few drops of blood are collected from the tip of your finger.

### ULTRASOUND



The ultrasound is also used to determine more precisely the age of the foetus.

### MEASUREMENTS

- ⇒ PAPP-A  
*(Pregnancy Associated Plasma Protein A)*
- ⇒ Free **B**-hCG  
*(Human Chorionic Gonadotropin)*

### MEASUREMENTS

- ⇒ Nuchal Translucency (NT)  
*Amount of fluid accumulation at the back of the foetal neck. Foetuses affected with certain anomalies may have an increased nuchal translucency.*
- ⇒ Nasal Bone (NB)  
*70% of foetuses affected by trisomy have an absent nasal bone during the first trimester of pregnancy.*

## Detection Rate

95%<sup>1</sup>

when combined with NT and NB

## False Positive Rate

2%<sup>1</sup>

when combined with NT and NB

# WHEN SHOULD THE Prenatest SCREENING TEST BE PERFORMED ?

The Prenatest screening test should be performed during the first trimester of your pregnancy, meaning between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy.

If you consult your doctor at a later date (between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> week of pregnancy), a 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester Prenatest screen can be performed.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR Results

The Prenatest prenatal screening test can provide helpful information about your pregnancy. It is important to remember that this test is a screening test and does not provide a final diagnosis on the state of the foetus that you are carrying. The results received by your physician will inform you of your risk (high or low) of carrying a foetus affected by one of the most common birth anomalies.



### Low RISK

This means that your risk of having a foetus affected by a chromosomal anomaly is lower than the established threshold. This does not guarantee that the foetus is normal; it only tells you that your risk is lower.

### High RISK

This means that your risk of having a foetus affected by an anomaly is higher than the established threshold value. However, this does not necessarily mean that your foetus is affected by a chromosomal anomaly. Your physician will discuss your options with you and the possibility of having a diagnostic test.

# Diagnostic TESTS<sup>1</sup>

The following diagnostic tests can definitively determine if your pregnancy is associated with Down syndrome, trisomy 18 or certain other chromosomal abnormalities. However, these invasive tests can cause pregnancy complications or miscarriage.

**Amniocentesis:** This is a medical procedure in which the healthcare provider inserts a thin needle through the mother's abdomen. A small amount of amniotic fluid (the fluid that surrounds the baby) is removed and analyzed. The procedure is usually performed between 15 and 18 weeks of pregnancy. There is a risk of miscarriage of 1%.<sup>2</sup>

**Chorionic villus sampling (CVS):** This medical procedure involves taking a tiny placental tissue sample from outside the sac where the foetus develops. After sampling, the tissue can be analyzed for chromosomal abnormalities. This test can be performed as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. There is a risk of miscarriage of 1%.<sup>2</sup>

## WHY CHOOSE THE Prenatest METHOD?

Although the Prenatest results do not provide a final diagnosis, this screening test remains very useful for the following reasons:

- ⇒ It is the best choice for prenatal screening in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester
- ⇒ It does not pose any danger to the mother or to the foetus
- ⇒ It offers a high detection rate, with a low false positive rate
- ⇒ It is available to pregnant women of all ages
- ⇒ In the event of worrisome results (high risk), the test is performed early enough in pregnancy to give you time to consider diagnostic options

Talk it over with your doctor.

<sup>1</sup> Warnex Medical Laboratories does not offer these diagnostic tests.

<sup>2</sup> Alfievic, Z., et al. (2003)