

What Are We Looking For with Prenatal Screening?

Most babies are born healthy. But any woman can have a baby with a birth defect or serious medical problem. You may want to have tests done which can tell you about your chances of having a baby with certain birth defects or certain genetic conditions.

This page tells you about **some conditions** that can be found with screening. Whether or not you have these tests is up to you.

Down syndrome

- Leads to learning problems (life-long slow mental ability), health problems, and sometimes birth defects.
- Children with Down syndrome are usually able to do many things that other children can. They do need extra medical care and help with learning.
- Children do not usually die from Down syndrome.
- Most children with Down syndrome are born to young, healthy parents.
- Most children with Down syndrome are born to parents with no family history of Down syndrome.



Trisomy 18

- A serious combination of birth defects and brain damage.
- Most babies with Trisomy 18 die before birth or soon after. Those that live are severely disabled.
- Most children with Trisomy 18 are born to young, healthy parents.
- Most babies with Trisomy 18 are born to parents with no family history of the condition.

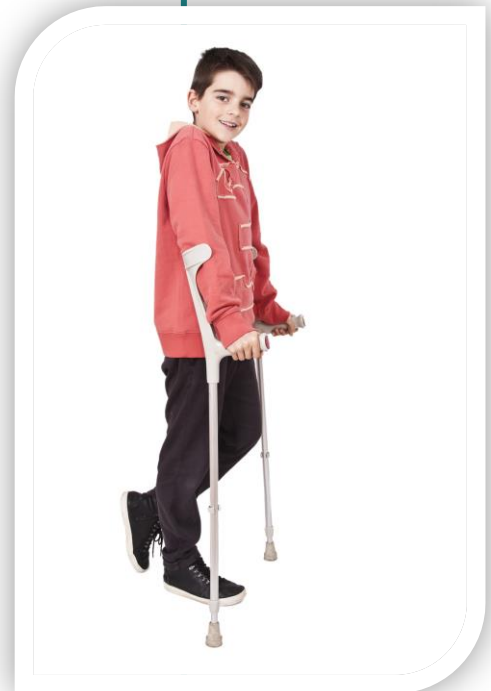
Other chromosome abnormalities

- Can be very serious, like Trisomy 18 or fairly minor, depending on the condition.
- Often affect health.
- Often affect learning abilities.
- Sometimes affect the ability to have children.



Neural Tube Defects (NTDS)

- NTDs happen very early in pregnancy.
 - The neural tube develops into the baby's brain and spinal cord.
 - If the neural tube does not form normally, this leads to birth defects of the backbone, spinal cord and/or brain.
 - Some open spine defects can be treated with surgery before birth.
- Some NTDs can be fixed by surgery after birth.
 - Even with surgery, many children with NTDs have physical disabilities and/or learning problems.
 - Some NTDs are so serious that babies die from them.
- Most babies with NTDs are born to healthy parents with no family history of the condition.



Questions? Call Us!

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