

Multiple Marker Screening

What is Multiple Marker Screening (MMS)?

Multiple Marker Screening, also known as maternal serum screening, is a group of blood tests offered during pregnancy to assess the chance of specific conditions. The type of screening offered depends on factors like the stage of pregnancy

Conditions Tested:

- First Trimester Screen: Assesses the chance for Trisomy 18 and Down syndrome.
- Second trimester screen (sometimes referred to as the Quad screen): Assesses Trisomy 18, Down syndrome, and open neural tube defects.
- Second Trimester Screen for open neural tube defects (MSAFP only): Focuses on assessing the chance for open neural tube defects.
- Combined, Sequential, or Integrated screens: These screens require blood work during the first and second trimesters and assess for Trisomy 18, Down syndrome, and open neural tube defects.

The detection rate between the screens vary slightly. It is important to ask healthcare providers which screen is most appropriate for a person.

How does the screening work?

MMS analyzes hormone patterns in the pregnant person's blood, mostly produced by the placenta. If these hormones are in a certain pattern that has been seen in pregnancies with one of the conditions above, then it increases the chance the pregnancy could have one of these conditions. Different hormones are assessed depending on the trimester and specific screen. Screening results may not be 100% accurate, and there is a small chance of missed or misdiagnosed conditions.

Understanding positive and negative results:

A positive result indicates an increased chance of the tested condition. However, this does not mean the pregnancy is diagnosed with the condition. Confirmation testing can be considered such as an amniocentesis or testing the baby after birth.

A negative result reduces the chance of the conditions but does not eliminate it entirely. Additional testing can be considered to further reduce the possibility.

Who should consider multiple marker screening?

Multiple Marker Screening is typically offered to all pregnant individuals, but it is a personal decision and not mandatory. It can be considered by anyone who wants to assess their chance of specific conditions during pregnancy. Healthcare providers can discuss the screening further and help determine if it is appropriate based on individual circumstances and preferences.

For more information, speak to a healthcare provider.

This handout is not medical advice. Please refer to Modern Reproduction's Disclaimer and Terms and Service on their website:
www.Modernreproduction.org.

Copyright © Modern Reproduction 2023