

OB/GYN SPECIALISTS OF COLUMBUS, P.C.

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ANTEPARTUM FETAL TESTING QUAD SCREEN

DEFINITION

A relatively common screening of a blood sample taken from the mother usually during the 15th to 20th week of pregnancy. The primary measurement of the triple screen is for maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein (MSAFP OR AFP) a protein produced by the liver cells of every fetus and is present in both the amniotic fluid and the mother's blood. Testing for human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) and unconjugated estriol (uE3) is combined with the AFP test to help improve the results.

REASONS FOR PROCEDURE

To help discover possible fetal abnormalities. The triple test is for screening purposes only and further testing is always necessary for accurate diagnosis of any problem. All screening test have the possibility of producing a falsely abnormal test result. Further testing will then correct this error. Unfortunately, this may cause patients undue worry. Despite this, the benefits of this test outweigh the risk, as the information from this test will help guide your doctor in giving you and your baby the best prenatal care.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE

Blood is usually drawn by needle from the upper arm. The sample is then sent to a laboratory for testing. Results are available in about one week.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- + The majority of the time (over 95%) the test results fall in the normal range.
- + About 3 to 5% of women tested will have an abnormal test. The women will be offered further testing such as ultrasound, amniocentesis and genetic counseling.
- + Abnormal test results may indicate:
 - o A neural tube defect such as spinal bifida (failure of spinal column to close completely)
 - o Threatened Abortion
 - o Twins or Triplets
 - o Abruptio Placentae
 - o The pregnancy is inaccurately dated
 - o Trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome)

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

Some discoloration, soreness or swelling may develop at the puncture site. False positive results of the test can cause anxiety and worry for the patients.

NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF

- + Following the test, you have any unusual pain or reaction at the puncture site
- + You need further information about the test
- + You do not need to call your office for results; we will notify you of normal results at your next visit. If further testing is required, we will call you and schedule for further testing.

I have read the above and desire screening with the serum QUAD SCREEN test:

Signature

Date

I have read the above and DO NOT desire screening with the serum QUAD SCREEN test:

Signature

Date

Staff Witness

Date