SULLIVAN NICOLAIDES PATHOLOGY

Information for patients

Non-invasive prenatal testing

Genetic testing during pregnancy

Sonic Genetics

A non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT) is a blood test of the mother that provides important information about the developing baby.

Arranging a test

1. Your doctor will have completed a Non-invasive prenatal test request form and should have discussed the range of conditions for which you may be tested, and whether you want to know your baby's sex. NIPT can be requested by your doctor from 10 weeks' gestation.

2. You will need to prepay for this test and book an appointment online at www.sonicgenetics.com.au/nipt or by contacting 1800 010 447.

3. Your blood sample can be collected at select Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology collection centres.

4. Your result is reported back to your doctor, usually within 3–8 business days of the laboratory receiving your blood sample.

5. If post-test genetic counselling is warranted, this can be arranged by your requesting doctor at no additional cost.^

^ Terms and conditions apply.
Please refer to www.sonicgenetics.com.au/patient/NIPT/gc

Cost

Please refer to our website for current pricing www.sonicgenetics.com.au/nipt. A Medicare rebate is not available for NIPT and the test is not covered by private health insurance.

NIPT can identify a pregnancy in which the baby is likely to have a chromosome condition. These conditions are uncommon, do not usually run in the family and can happen in any pregnancy. NIPT can be requested by your doctor from 10 weeks' gestation and we recommend that your doctor arrange for you to have an ultrasound to confirm your gestation, prior to collection.

Our NIPT routinely screens for:

- Down syndrome (trisomy 21)
- Edwards syndrome (trisomy 18)
- Patau syndrome (trisomy 13)

If requested by your doctor, NIPT can also screen for:

- DiGeorge syndrome (22q)
- Turner syndrome
- Klinefelter syndrome

Additionally, you can determine the sex of your baby.

More details about these conditions can be found at www.sonicgenetics.com.au/nipt.

How accurate is NIPT?

NIPT is a screening test, that is, it is a test for women who are unlikely to have a baby with a chromosome condition. NIPT is much more accurate than first trimester blood screening and ultrasound tests for detecting Down syndrome. For example, NIPT is 99% accurate in mothers whose baby has Down syndrome, and at least 99.9% accurate in mothers whose baby does not have have Down syndrome.

How does NIPT work?

There are small fragments of DNA in the mother's blood that have come from both the mother and the developing pregnancy. This is a normal process.

NIPT analyses the proportions of these DNA fragments that come from specific chromosomes. If a particular proportion is too high or too low, this indicates that there may be a condition of that chromosome in the developing baby.

What does the NIPT report include?

Your sample is checked to see if there is sufficient DNA from the developing pregnancy to provide a reliable result. Then, for each condition included on the request form, the report will indicate whether there is a low or high probability of the condition being present.

On rare occasions, it is not possible to issue an NIPT result. This is usually due to the complex biology of pregnancy rather than a failure of the test method. In some situations, we may recommend that a second sample be collected and analysed at no additional cost.

The primary purpose of the NIPT is to identify the possibility of the three most common trisomies. If NIPT cannot provide an assessment for these conditions after one collection of a blood sample (or two, if recommended by the laboratory), you can apply for a full refund.

How you will receive your test results

Your doctor will discuss the report with you and let you know if any other investigations are recommended. In your initial consultation with your doctor, we strongly advise that you discuss what you would do with the possible results, prior to the test being ordered.

If your report indicates a high probability of a chromosome condition being present, you may qualify for free genetic counselling through Sonic Genetics. This can be arranged by your doctor.^

For further information, please refer to our website, www.sonicgenetics.com.au/nipt.

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Testing is performed in Australia at one of our NATA-accredited laboratories.

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