PRENATAL SCREENING
DÉPISTAGE PRÉNATAL
ONTARIO

How to Discuss Prenatal Screening Results

Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT)
for trisomy 21, 18, 13 ± sex chromosome differences

Low Risk Screening Results

- This typically means the risk for trisomy 21, 18, 13 is <1:10,000
- A low risk screen result is reassuring, but this depends on the indication for testing
- A low risk screen result does **not** guarantee the birth of a baby without any health concerns or other genetic conditions
- A low risk screen result would not prompt the offer of invasive diagnostic testing

Looking for more information?
Find additional screening resources and educational materials at:
www.prenatalscreeningontario.ca

High Risk Screening Results

- This typically means the risk for trisomy 21, 18, 13 is significantly increased
- The chance that a high risk screen result is a true abnormal varies by chromosome and the pregnant person's age
- A referral for genetic counselling should be offered
- NIPT is a screening test - only invasive diagnostic testing (chorionic villus sampling or amniocentesis) can provide a diagnosis

"No Call" or Failed Results

- There are different reasons why NIPT fails (e.g. not enough fetal/placental DNA [due to high maternal weight or blood drawn too early], chromosome difference in mother or baby)
- Repeating the bloodwork (i.e. redraw) will yield a result in most cases

KEY POINTS

- NIPT is a screening test, it is **not** diagnostic
- NIPT screens for trisomy 21, 18, 13 (± sex chromosome differences)
- Invasive diagnostic testing should be considered in the context of a high risk NIPT