

Questions related to Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing

Accuracy related:

1. How accurate is the test?

- This is the most accurate non-invasive prenatal test available.
- The test is 99.9% accurate or greater in determining whether or not the alleged father is indeed the father.

In some cases we can get an indeterminate result if the amount of fetal DNA in the mother's blood is too low. The amount of fetal DNA in maternal blood typically rises with gestational age.

2. What if I get an insufficient result?

We recommend waiting a month, redrawing the mother's blood, and we will run the test again. You will not need to re-draw the father's sample.

3. Is it more accurate than an Amnio/CVS DNA test?

When performed at DDC, an Amnio/CVS DNA is equally as accurate. The difference is this the blood test is non-invasive, and requires state of the art testing technology when looking at the baby's DNA in the mothers blood.

4. What's the difference between this test and an amnio/CVS test?

There are 3 main differences:

1. This test simply requires the blood from the mother (and AF), rather than the invasive collection methods like amniocentesis or CVS. It's as SAFE as the blood collection from the mothers arm.
2. This test uses the very latest DNA technology. This makes it possible to tease the baby's DNA profile from the mother's blood.
3. This test is very convenient. Rather than finding a doctor who will perform the Amnio/CVS, which can be a challenge, we simply schedule you at one of 1,500 sites we have that will collect the blood.

General questions:

5. How does it work?

a. How do you get the baby's DNA from the mother's blood?

The DNA that we detect is from the placenta, which has the same DNA as the baby. When placental cells reach the end of their cell cycle, they die naturally, releasing their DNA into the blood. We isolate the free floating DNA from the mother's blood, which typically has between 5% and 30% fetal DNA. Then, we use complex bioinformatic algorithms to remove the interference from the signals due to the mother's DNA, and this allows us to compare the DNA signal from the baby to the DNA signals from the alleged father.

6. How much blood is required?

10 milliliters, or two blood tubes from the mother. 5 milliliters, or one blood tube from the father. Due to the preservative in the mother's blood tubes, the collector must use the kit supplied by DDC, a recollect will be necessary if alternative blood tubes are used.

7. Is it more or less accurate based on how far along the mother is?

The amount of fetal DNA at a given point in pregnancy can vary greatly from woman to woman. You do not need to prove to us what gestational age you are, but you will want to be certain that you are beyond 12 weeks so that you have the best chance of getting a conclusive result.

8. Will this work if it's not my first baby?

Yes, it doesn't matter if it is not your first baby. Unlike the method used by other testing laboratories that looks for free floating **nucleated** cells in maternal blood which can remain in maternal blood for many years, our method detects free floating **fetal** DNA in maternal blood. Free floating fetal DNA clears out of mom's blood within a matter of hours after a baby is born.

9. What if I've had blood transfusions?

a. Does it matter when?

As long as your blood transfusion was more than a week ago, we don't expect that to interfere with our ability to detect paternity.

10. Is this test safe?

Yes, it is as safe as any blood draw.

11. Why does it cost so much more than a regular paternity test?

Detecting paternity before a child is born is very specialized because the amount of DNA available from the mother's blood is very low. The cost of the advanced laboratory equipment and reagents is much higher because this is state of the art technology.

Results:

12. Are there other genetic tests I can get done at the same time?

No.

13. Can this tell me the baby's sex?

No.

Abortion related questions:

We are not to comment or speculate about abortion in any way. If someone has any questions regarding abortion they need to discuss that with their OB.