Clab
Laboratoire Médical

NIPT
FAQs

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1. What is NIPT test?

The NIPT test (non-invasive pre-natal test) is performed to determine the risk that the fetus will be born with certain genetic abnormalities. Among are the common trisomies 13, 18 and 21.

2. How is the test done?

We need 10ml of blood from the pregnant mother, collected in an EDTA or in a Streck Tube. The test analyzes fetal cell-free DNA (cfDNA) which circulates in the mother's blood. The fetal cfDNA will then be scanned for genetic disorders via the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) method.

3. When can the test be done?

The test can be done as from 10 weeks of gestation.

4. Is NIPT risky for the baby?

No, there is no harm done to the baby. We only collect 10ml of blood from the mother.

5. What does NIPT screen for?

NIPT test screens the 23 pairs of human chromosomes.

NIPT screens for numerous genetic disorders, such as: Down syndrome (trisomy of chromosome 21), Edwards syndrome (trisomy of chromosome 18) and Patau syndrome (trisomy of chromosome 13). Trisomy means the presence of three copies of a particular chromosome in every cell of the baby's body rather than the usual two copies.

NIPT can also test for abnormal numbers of sex chromosomes. Males usually have one X and one Y chromosome, while females have two X chromosomes. This additional option, called sex chromosome aneuploidies, can be added on request from your doctor. Examples of sex chromosome aneuploidies are Turner syndrome (only one X), Klinefelter syndrome (XXY/XYY) and the presence of 3 X chromosomes (XXX).

6. Is NIPT test accurate?

The NIPT test is 99% accurate. It uses the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) method, currently the most powerful sequencing method available.

7. How will my results be?

Your results will be based on a risk score as High or Low risk.

8. What happens if my NIPT results are high risk?

Your doctor may recommend additional invasive tests (amniocentesis or chronic villus sample) to confirm the genetic status of the baby.

9. How long will it take to get results?

It takes 3 weeks to get results from the day C-Lab receives your samples.

10. Can I get my results directly?

Yes, you can. Do let us know if you want to get your results directly and provide us with your email address. Your doctor will also be getting a copy of your results, so that he can interpret it and discuss the findings with you.

11. Do I have to sign any consent forms?

There is a consent form for all NIPT tests, where all the details of the test are included. By signing this consent form, you give C-Lab the authorization to process your sample. There is also an NIPT request form to be filled by your doctor.

12. Will the test tell me the sex of my baby?

Yes, if you wish to know the sex of your baby, same has to be ticked in your consent form and it will then be included in your results.

If you do not wish to know the sex, please cross the box accordingly.

13. Can I do the test if I am expecting twins?

Yes, the method is suitable for both singleton and twin pregnancies.

14. What if I’m having twins, can I know which one will have the genetic disorder?

No, this method cannot tell which one of the twins will be having the genetic disorder. SAGE NIPT test extracts all the cfDNA in the mother’s blood and scans it for genetic disorders. The cfDNA of the babies are mixed and there is no way to separate them.

15. Can I take this NIPT test if I am expecting a baby via In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)?

Yes, the NIPT test can be used in pregnancies conceived through IVF, including those using an egg donor.

16. How different is the NIPT test with Microdeletions?

The NIPT test with microdeletion screens for 23 pairs of human chromosomes, Sex chromosomal aneuploidies and additionally the microdeletions syndromes including: DiGeorge syndrome, 1p36 deletion syndrome, Angelman syndrome/Prader-Willi syndrome, Cri-du-Chat syndrome and Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome.