

Down's syndrome testing after 20 weeks of pregnancy

Your scan today has dated your pregnancy as greater than 20 weeks. After 20 weeks we are no longer able to offer screening for Down's syndrome.

Screening tests give an idea of the likelihood of a pregnancy being affected by Down's syndrome. Women with a high chance screening test result are then offered a diagnostic test.

Information about these tests is available in the booklet 'Screening tests for you and your baby'.

Before screening tests for Down's syndrome were available the only information that could give women any guidance about their chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome was to use their age-related chance. This chance is much less accurate than the current screening tests which use information from scan and blood test results as well as your age.

Below is a table giving the chance of Down's syndrome according to age alone:

Maternal age at term	Chance of Down's syndrome
20	1:1450
21	1:1450
22	1:1450
23	1:1400
24	1:1400
25	1:1350
26	1:1300
27	1:1200
28	1:1150
29	1:1050
30	1:940
31	1:820
32	1:700
33	1:570
34	1:460
35	1:350
36	1:270
37	1:200
38	1:150
39	1:110
40	1:85
41	1:70
42	1:55
43	1:45
44	1:40
45	1:35
46	1:30
47	1:30
48	1:30
49	1:25

Morris et al (2003)

The only diagnostic test for Down's syndrome available at this later stage of pregnancy is an 'Amniocentesis'. This is a 'diagnostic' test rather than a screening test. This means that it gives definite information about whether a pregnancy is affected by Down's syndrome. This test carries a risk of miscarriage of around 1%. There is also a Privately Funded screening test available to screen for Down's syndrome after 10 weeks of pregnancy, it is called non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT). Further information is available <https://www.arc-uk.org/tests-explained/non-invasive-prenatal-testing-nipt>.

If you would like further information, or are considering an amniocentesis, please ask to discuss this with the screening coordinator or one of the midwives in the Fetal and Maternal Assessment Unit.

Screening Coordinator Midwives

Tel: **01392 406533** or **406540**

Antenatal Results & Choices (ARC) is a UK charity that supports parents throughout antenatal screening:

www.arc-uk.org

Tel: **0845 077 2290** or **020 7713 7486**

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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