

Non-invasive first trimester blood test reliably detects Down's syndrome

February 3 2015

Cell-free fetal DNA testing, which measures the relative amount of free fetal DNA in a pregnant woman's blood, is a new screening test that indicates the risk of Down syndrome (trisomy 21), Edward syndrome (trisomy 18), and Patau syndrome (trisomy 13).

A recent analysis of 37 published studies shows that the test can detect more than 99% of Down syndrome cases in singleton pregnancies, with a very low false positive rate of less than 0.1%. This makes it superior to all other testing methods.

The test is much less accurate for Edward syndrome and Patau syndrome, however, with respective detection rates of about 96% and 92% and a false positive rate of 0.26%. The analysis is published in *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

More information: Gil, M. M., Quezada, M. S., Revello, R., Akolekar, R. and Nicolaides, K. H. (2015), Analysis of cell-free DNA in maternal blood in screening for fetal aneuploidies: updated meta-analysis. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol.* [DOI: 10.1002/uog.14791](https://doi.org/10.1002/uog.14791)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Non-invasive first trimester blood test reliably detects Down's syndrome (2015, February 3) retrieved 16 December 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-02-non->

[invasive-trimester-blood-reliably-syndrome.html](#)

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.