**CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING**

**WHAT IS CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING?**

Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) is a microscopic sampling of the early developing placenta performed in the first trimester. Since the placenta is made up of fetal tissue, a CVS tells you with nearly 100 percent accuracy the chromosomal makeup of the developing fetus.

**WHAT TESTS CAN BE PERFORMED ON A CVS SAMPLE?**

Most commonly, CVS samples are used to test for chromosome abnormalities such as Down syndrome (trisomy 21), trisomy 13, trisomy 18, sex chromosome abnormalities and in some cases, specific genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis, fragile X or sickle cell disease.

**HOW IS A CVS PERFORMED?**

There are two possible ways to perform a CVS: transabdominal or transcervical. While some placental locations are accessible to both methods, usually one method is preferable due to the location of the early placenta.

In the transabdominal approach, a needle is passed through the skin (using local anesthesia) into the early developing placenta under ultrasound guidance.

In the transcervical approach, a speculum is placed in the vagina (the same as when a pap test is performed) and a small catheter is guided through the cervix into the placenta under ultrasound guidance.

**ARE THERE ANY RISKS?**

The risk of miscarriage following CVS is less than 1 in 350. This risk is less than the spontaneous pregnancy loss rate at the gestational age of the CVS for those people not undergoing a diagnostic procedure.

**ARE THE RESULTS ACCURATE?**

Approximately 1 percent of the time a phenomenon known as confined placental mosaicism may be seen. In this case, the results of a CVS are inconclusive and a follow up procedure such as an amniocentesis may be indicated.

**WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF A CVS?**

CVS is typically performed between 10-14 weeks. This provides information about the health of the pregnancy earlier than an amniocentesis (which is usually performed between 15 and 20 weeks).

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**WHO SHOULD CONSIDER CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING**

*You should consider CVS if:*

- You are 35 years old or older
- You have had a chromosome abnormality in a previous pregnancy.
- You have a family history or are at risk for a specific genetic disorder.
- You have received abnormal results from an early screening test (first trimester screening).

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**Diablo Valley Perinatal Associates**

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DIRECTIONS

FROM THE NORTH BAY
From Interstate 80, merge onto I-680 South. Exit N. Main Street (southbound) in Walnut Creek. Turn left onto Ygnacio Valley Rd. Turn right onto Tampico. Turn left into first driveway.

FROM THE SOUTH BAY
Follow I-680 North to Walnut Creek. Take the Ygnacio Valley Rd exit. Turn right onto Ygnacio Valley Rd. Turn right onto Tampico. Turn left into first driveway.

FROM THE WEST
Follow CA-24 East through the Caldecott Tunnel. Keep left, follow signs for I-680 N/Sacramento/Concord. Take Ygnacio Valley Rd exit. Turn right onto Ygnacio Valley Rd. Turn right onto Tampico. Turn left into first driveway.

FREE Parking available.