Stanford HEALTH CARE

Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)

What is a CVS?
A CVS is performed between 10 and 12 weeks and involves taking a small amount of tissue from the placenta. Although methods can vary, the procedure involves inserting a small tube called a catheter through the cervix into the uterine cavity. It may be performed after an abnormal nuchal thickness to evaluate the chromosomes of the fetus for abnormalities. CVS chromosomal results are available earlier in pregnancy than amniocentesis results. To complete the testing, AFP only and
Detailed ultrasound are still recommended. This test is performed by a perinatologist.

Scheduling Genetic Counseling and Genetic Testing

How do I schedule chromosomal testing?
You must call a perinatology office (high-risk obstetrician) to schedule and appointment for genetic counseling, nuchal screening, CVS or amniocentesis. If you would like to schedule nuchal thickness testing or CVS, you should call prior to 11 weeks of pregnancy. If you want an amniocentesis this is usually performed with a Detailed ultrasound between 16 and 18 weeks of pregnancy. If you elect not to have the amniocentesis, you should still consider genetic counseling and Detailed ultrasound. You may also have the Expanded AFP test performed if you did not do a nuchal screening test and are not planning an amniocentesis. The AFP test does not have the same accuracy as the amniocentesis. If you are undecided about testing, schedule genetic counseling during the first trimester of your pregnancy.

Who should I call?
Please check with your insurance carrier to determine which physician and facility is contracted with your insurance. Locally, we recommend the Obstetrix Medical Group at (408) 371-7111, or Stanford perinatology department at (650) 725-7030.