

What are Integrated and Sequential Screening?

Integrated and Sequential screening are new prenatal tests that indicate in the first trimester if a woman is at increased risk for having a baby with Down syndrome (trisomy 21), trisomy 18, or other birth defects. Women who are found to be at increased risk can then be offered further testing with amniocentesis or chorion villus sampling (CVS).

Who should have Integrated and Sequential Screening?

The American College of Gynecology (ACOG) has recommended Down syndrome screening be offered to all women, whether they are over or under 35. Seventy percent (70%) of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under the age of 35. This test is not invasive and is the most sensitive way to assess for the risk of Down syndrome as well as other chromosome and cardiac abnormalities.

Amniocentesis and CVS are routinely offered to women over age of 35. Integrated and Sequential screening can be helpful for women over 35 who are uncertain about or who want additional risk information to help them decide whether to have invasive testing with amniocentesis and CVS.