Hamilton Health Sciences
PATIENT EDUCATION

QFPCR testing

Information for women having amniocentesis or Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)

What is QFPCR?

QFPCR stands for Quantitative Fluorescence Polymerase Chain Reaction. This is a quick way of testing some of the chromosomes in the sample from your amniocentesis or CVS. QFPCR looks for common chromosome problems. The results are usually ready in 2 to 4 working days.

What does QFPCR test for?

Every human cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes.

- Twenty-two pairs are the same in every person. They are numbered from 1 to 22 (largest to smallest).
- The 23rd pair are the sex chromosomes. Girls have two X chromosomes and boys have an X and a Y chromosome.

QFPCR looks at five chromosomes: numbers 13, 18 and 21, as well as the X or Y. The test will show:

- whether the baby is male or female
- whether there is extra or missing X or Y chromosomes
- whether there is extra or missing chromosomes 13, 18 or 21

Extra or missing chromosomes can affect the baby's development and condition at birth. For example, having 3 copies of chromosome 21 (instead of a pair) is the cause of Down syndrome.

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What if the QFPCR results are normal?

A normal QFPCR result means that nothing extra or missing was found for the five chromosomes tested.

QFPCR does not test for all chromosome problems. Other genetic tests may be ordered to look for more rare genetic syndromes.

What if the QFPCR results are abnormal?

We will talk to you about the results and what they mean for your pregnancy. We will give you information and support as you consider all the results.

What if the QFPCR results are not available?

Occasionally (less than 10% of the time), results will not be available from the QFPCR test. If this happens, we will try to evaluate the chromosomes in your sample in a different way. This can take 3 to 4 weeks.

If you have questions, you may call the Prenatal Diagnosis Clinic at 905-521-2100, ext. 76247