

Genetic Prenatal Diagnosis FAQs

Which methods are used to obtain prenatal cells?

1. Chorionic biopsy: it is the collection of chorionic villus through either the vagina (transcervical) or abdomen (transabdominal). Usually done between weeks 10 and 12 of gestation.
2. Amniocentesis: it involves the extraction of amniotic fluid by transabdominal puncture. It is the most used and is performed around weeks 14 y 16 of the gestation.
3. PUBS or cordocentesis: consists of foetal blood extraction by direct puncture of the umbilical cord. Usually performed after 18 weeks of gestation.

Which are subsequent analyses after foetal DNA extraction?

In general, systems more used in prenatal genetic diagnosis are all kind of PCR (above all QF-PCR) and sequencing, FISH techniques,

What uses have genetic tests during pregnant?

They represent a set of available techniques to know the adequate growth and development of the foetus before birth aiming to implement possible early corrections to potential abnormalities if possible. It is reported that 5% of foetus may show some abnormality.

What reasons may lead to develop genetic prenatal tests?

Medical authorities recommend carrying out genetic prenatal analyses in those cases where:

- Advanced maternal age (from 30-35).
- Advanced paternal age (from 50).
- Positive biochemical study of chromosomal abnormalities.
- Previous child with Down syndrome or other chromosomal aberrations.
- Chromosomal aberrations in some partner.
- Mental retardation on familiar history, chromosomal aberrations or malformations.
- Records of hereditary disease.
- Sterility problems or recurrent abortion.
- Ultrasound result suspicious of chromosomal aberrations or malformation.
- Exposure to various harmful agents: contraception, drugs, radiation, etc.
- Adverse obstetric happenings: lack or excess of amniotic fluid into the foetus, retard on foetal growth, abnormalities in cardiac rhythm, etc.

Since what week can be prenatal genetic diagnosis developed?

Genetic prenatal diagnosis can be performed at different times during gestation, depending on the method of sample collection.

Chorionic biopsy: it is used performed among the weeks 10 and 12 of the gestation.

Amniocentesis: it is used performed from the week 14 of the gestation.

Is necessary to perform cultures for a genetic prenatal analysis?

No. Since iGENatal DNA Extraction Kit allows extracting qualified DNA in a sufficient amount to carry out any subsequent analysis laboratory technicians avoid performing cultures which delay the diagnosis for 2 or 3 days.