CROWN
Obstetrics and Gynecology

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY (NT) ULTRASOUND

During your NT ultrasound, a sonographer will measure a fluid filled area at the back of the baby's neck, called the nuchal translucency. In addition, the sonographer will attempt to see the nasal bone. Baby's growth and early structures will be checked as well.

Once the ultrasound examination is complete, the sonographer will notify the perinatologist and perinatal counselor, who will discuss the information learned during the ultrasound. The perinatologist and the perinatal counselor will discuss the testing options with you that can be done in conjunction with ultrasound examination to better estimate the chance for the pregnancy to be affected with a chromosome condition.

Prenatal genetic testing can be put into two categories:

1. Screening tests- includes blood tests (blood draw from patient)- includes ERA and NIPT
2. Diagnostic tests- includes amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS)

The other page of this information sheet presents the two different blood testing options that are offered.

Another option, although it is not common to begin with, is a diagnostic test such as amniocentesis. Diagnostic tests are close to 100% accurate in detecting chromosome abnormalities and a group of conditions called microdeletions.

Some patients will choose to decline blood screening and diagnostic testing altogether. For those who choose to have their blood drawn for screening and learn that their pregnancy is at an increased chance to be affected with one of the conditions being screened for, further testing options are discussed with their counselor.