irish
maternal fetal
foundation

Irish Maternal Fetal Foundation

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Sandyford
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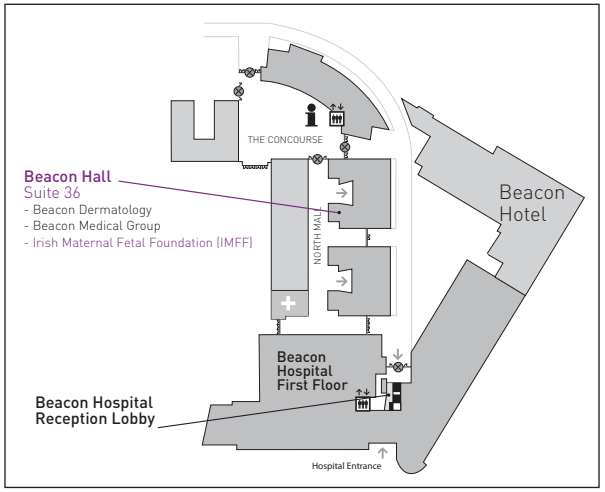

From N11/ Leopardstown Race Course

- Drive the N11 Dual Carriage Way towards Greystones/Wexford
- Turn right onto Leopardstown Road
- Go past Leopardstown Racecourse entrance (on left)
- Take third exit on Leopardstown Roundabout onto Burton Hall Road
- Follow Burton Hall Road down to T Junction and turn left onto Blackthorn Road
- Follow road around and turn into Beacon Court underground car park at end of road on left.

From M50

- Head to end of M50 Southbound and take exit for Sandyford/Dundrum
- Take 3rd turn off roundabout sign posted for Sandyford
- Follow road around to left until you come to a T-Junction and turn right
- Turn right onto Blackthorn Road which is the first road on the right (after Beacon Hotel)
- Immediate right turn into Beacon Court underground car park
- Follow signage to Irish Maternal Fetal Foundation (lift)

Parking is accessed off Blackthorn Road in a Pay & Display area in Beacon Court underground car park. Please keep to your right when you come into the car park and park in the visitors car park which is located just to the right as you come in.

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Patient Information

Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)

Information about Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)

What is Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)?

CVS is a test which takes a small sample of tissue, the chorionic villi, from your baby's placenta. The placenta almost always has the same genetic results as the baby. The placenta sample can be tested directly for chromosomal problems, like Down syndrome, or DNA abnormalities, like cystic fibrosis.

Who may be offered CVS?

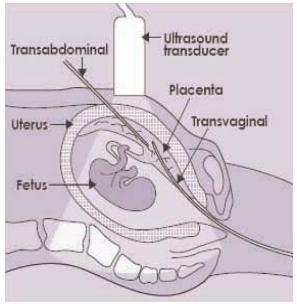
A CVS is always voluntary and only you can decide if you should have this test. The information below may help you decide whether or not to have this test.
The most common reason to have CVS is for those worried about the chances that the baby may have a chromosomal problem, like Down syndrome. This might include:

- Women with a First Trimester Screening (FTS) test suggesting an increased chance of having a baby with a chromosomal problem
- Women who are anxious about the risk of problems, often because of their age
- Women who have had a previous pregnancy affected by a serious medical problem with the baby

How is the CVS test performed?

CVS is performed in one of two ways, depending on the position of the placenta, as shown in the picture.

A fine needle is passed through the mother's abdomen and a sample from the placenta is taken. The needle is carefully directed to the right area using ultrasound.



Alternatively, a thin plastic straw is passed through the vagina and cervix into the placenta, similar in approach to a cervical smear. Ultrasound is also used to direct the straw to the right area.

When is the CVS test performed?

Ideally the test is performed between 11 to 12 weeks' gestation. However it may be performed as early as 10 weeks or as late as 14 weeks' gestation.

What preparation do I need before the test?

A moderately full bladder is preferable. This brings the pregnancy up into the abdominal cavity and therefore easier accessibility for the needle. A scan is first performed to make sure that the baby is alive and of the correct size, to check if there are twins, and to check the position of the placenta. It is possible that you may be asked to empty or re-fill your bladder in order to make sure that your uterus is in the best position.

It is important to know what your blood group is before the test. If possible please ask you doctor or midwife to provide this information to you, or bring along your blood donor card. If you have a negative blood group you will also need to have a special injection of "anti-D" after the CVS test.

What should I expect after the CVS procedure?

For the first couple of days after the procedure you may experience some abdominal cramping, like period pains, or a little bleeding from the vagina. These are relatively common and in the vast majority of cases are of no importance. You may find it helpful to take painkillers like paracetamol. If there is a lot of pain or bleeding or if you develop a temperature please seek medical advice immediately from your obstetrician or midwife or from the Irish Maternal Fetal Foundation.

When can I expect my results?

The results for Down syndrome and other major chromosomal problems are usually available within 2 to 3 days. It can take up to 2 to 3 weeks if you request, or need, to have tests for other conditions or those that affect chromosomes other than 13, 18, 21, X or Y. We will call you with your results as soon as they are available. We will also send a copy to your obstetrician, GP, or midwife.

Will the procedure need to be repeated?

In approximately 1% of cases an invasive test will need to be repeated because the test results are inconclusive, or if not enough placenta sample is obtained through the needle. In this situation you will have the option to undergo an amniocentesis test at about 15 weeks' gestation.

What are the risks associated with the test?

The risk of miscarriage due to CVS is about 1% (1 chance in 100). If a miscarriage is going to occur, you will usually have symptoms within the first 2 to 3 days after the test.

It is important to remember that a normal CVS test does not guarantee a normal baby, as it cannot exclude all genetic or fetal abnormalities. It is recommended that you have a Fetal Anomaly Scan at 20 weeks to check for other abnormalities.

Outcome of the pregnancy

Following the completion of the CVS test, you will be given an outcome form and we would be grateful if you would complete this and return it to us, when your pregnancy is finished. This information is important for us to keep track of how well our service is performing and for our continuing research in fetal medicine. We may also need to contact you again, your GP or your hospital to obtain further details about your pregnancy and your baby's health. All such information will be treated as confidential and anonymous data may be used for our research.

If you prefer that we do not collect this information please tick this box. ☐

Once you have finished reading this form please sign and date below and return the form to the Irish Maternal Fetal Foundation.

- I have read the background information about CVS, and I understand the risks of miscarriage (1%) and the risks of failure of the test (1%).
- I understand that the CVS test provides information on certain specific conditions, like Down syndrome, but that it cannot guarantee the birth of a completely normal baby

Name .....

Signature .....

Date .....

Doctor's Signature .....