



An Affiliate of Methodist Health System

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Bulletin

Technical

FETAL RISK ASSESSMENT

July 1, 2002 the UNMC Human Genetics Laboratory will switch from a triple screen to a quad screen for assessment for neural tube defects, Down syndrome and trisomy 18. The marker **dimeric inhibin A (DIA)** will be added to the current screen which includes estriol, b-HCG and alpha fetoprotein.

The addition of dimeric inhibin A will reduce the false-positive rate from 4.7% for the current triple screen assay to 2.9% for the quad screen assay. The quad screen will lead to a reduction in the number of unnecessary ultrasound examinations and amniocenteses performed. The DIA levels remain relatively constant between 15-20 weeks gestations. Increased DIA levels are associated with an increased risk of Down syndrome.

The triple screen will still be available through our reference laboratory ARUP. However, there is a special form to use for patient history if the triple screen is sent to ARUP.

Specimen requirements are the same for both the quad screen and the triple screen. They require 2 ml serum from plain red top tube refrigerated. The specimens must be collected between 14 weeks 0 days and 20 weeks 6 days. A UNMC Human Genetics patient history form must accompany the quad screen. The current forms for triple screen will be used for the quad screens until UNMC provides new forms. If we receive the specimen on a UNMC form, we will assume you are ordering the quad screen. An ARUP patient history form must accompany orders for triple screens.

The CPT number for the DIA is 86336. Please call The Pathology Center Client Services if you need billing information, patient history forms or any additional information.