Advantages of First Trimester screening:

- The test poses no risk to your baby
- The nuchal translucency sono can also identify some babies who are at risk for heart defects or other genetic conditions.
- Allows women who are at risk to have the option of further testing including cell free DNA or diagnostic testing like Chorionic villus sampling or amniocentesis.
- If the screening is found to be low risk this offers reassurance to some women through the pregnancy.

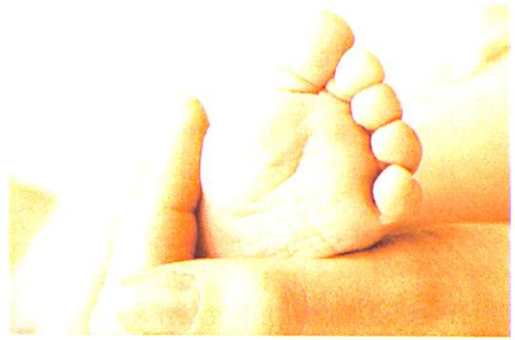
Disadvantages of First Trimester screening:

- As with any test, if a woman receives a result, which indicates an increased risk, her anxiety about the pregnancy may increase.
- Of the women who choose this test and test positive for downs syndrome, 3-5% will be a false positive. Which means they are told there is increased risk their baby has a chromosomal abnormality when they actually do not.

NOTE: Insurance may or may not cover First Trimester screening. Please contact them prior to testing to verify payment. They will need the 2 CPT Codes for the test:

* 99241

teverbaugh croland & mueller
ob/gyn & associates



First Trimester Screening

What is the first trimester screening:

- It is a test to identify pregnancies at higher risk for down syndrome (Trisomy 21) or Edwards syndrome (Trisomy 18).

How is the test performed:

This test has two parts:

- The first part **of the test must be performed between 11 weeks and 13 weeks 6 days.** This consists of a sono to measure an area on the back of your baby's neck called the nuchal fold. This measurement known as nuchal translucency is paired with bloodwork drawn the same day which measures hormone levels in your blood
- The second part of the test is bloodwork drawn between 15-20 weeks of pregnancy

Screening results and accuracy:

- You will receive a preliminary risk assessment approx. 7-10 days after the first blood draw.
- You will receive a final risk assessment approx. 7-10 days after the second blood draw.
- The risk of the pregnancy being affected by a chromosomal abnormality is calculated using the results of the ultrasound and blood test, along with the age, race and weight of the mother.
- The ultrasound and blood screen will identify approximately 90% of babies with chromosome abnormalities.

What happens if the screening shows an increased risk:

- Women receiving abnormal screening results will be offered follow up testing starting with cell free DNA. Cell free DNA is blood work that looks for chromosomal abnormalities using different technology looking specifically at your baby's DNA that is circulating in your blood.
- You will likely receive a referral to a specialist .