



CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING (CVS)

What is Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)?

Chorionic villus sampling (CVS) is a diagnostic procedure that involves collecting a small sample of cells from the placenta. This test is used to detect chromosomal abnormalities and single gene conditions, similar to amniocentesis, but it can be performed earlier in pregnancy—typically between 12 and 13 weeks.

The sample, taken from the placenta, contains cells that share the fetus's genetic material. It can be obtained either transvaginally through the cervix or through the abdominal wall, depending on various factors. After collection, the sample is sent to a laboratory, where testing may be performed on direct cells or on cells grown in a culture for about 7-14 days.

Preliminary results (known as FISH analysis) on the number of chromosomes 13, 18, 21, and sex chromosomes can be available within 72 hours. Additional testing for chromosome and single gene disorders, depending on the reasons for testing, may take 2-3 weeks or longer.

What are the benefits and risks of CVS?

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| Benefits: | Early diagnosis of chromosome and single gene conditions, informed choices and preparation, improved medical care prenatally and postnatally |
| Risks: | Miscarriage: there is a small risk (approximately 1 in 300 to 1 in 500) of miscarriage
Infection: rarely, there may be a risk of infection in the uterus
Injury to the fetus: there is a very small risk of injury to the fetus during the procedure
Bleeding: vaginal bleeding after the procedure will usually resolve on its own |

How should I prepare for CVS?

Please drink plenty of fluids and arrive at your appointment with a full bladder.

What should I expect after CVS?

You may experience mild cramping, similar to menstrual cramps, which typically lasts a few hours and rarely more than 24 hours. Light spotting or brown discharge may occur for up to a week after the procedure. If spotting happens, use sanitary pads instead of tampons. Avoid sexual intercourse, soaking in a bath, or swimming until the spotting has completely resolved.

Are there any restrictions after CVS?

For the first 72 hours post procedure, you should avoid lifting over 15 lbs, performing any strenuous activity or exercise, and avoid travel. Drink plenty of fluids.

When should I seek medical attention after CVS?

- Fever of 100.4°F or 38.0°C, or higher
- Spotting or bleeding, heavier than a period
- Continuous leakage of clear fluid (like water) from the vagina
- Severe abdominal pain

In case of emergency during the night or on the weekend, please contact your OB office to speak with the physician on call, or proceed to the nearest hospital ER for evaluation.