

Chorionic villus sampling, or CVS, is a procedure that can be done during the first trimester of pregnancy (usually between 11 and 14 weeks). CVS involves getting some of the tissue from the placenta (the chorionic villi) so that the lab can test for chromosome and genetic conditions.

Because CVS is an invasive procedure, there is a risk of less than 1 in 200 (or 0.5%) for complications that can lead to a miscarriage. That also means that more than 99.5% of women who have a CVS will not have a procedure-related miscarriage. Because of this risk for complications, diagnostic tests like CVS are always optional, and never anything that you would have to do.

There are many different types of testing that can be done on CVS samples, including traditional [chromosome analysis \(karyotype\)](#), [FISH](#), [chromosomal microarray](#), and [familial gene](#) testing. All of this testing is considered to be diagnostic testing for chromosome and genetic conditions, meaning it can typically provide a 'yes' or 'no' answer, as opposed to screening tests which only tell you the chances or odds.

CVS can screen for many things, but cannot screen for all medical conditions or [birth defects](#), including [open neural tube defects](#).

- [How does the procedure work?](#)
- [What results can I expect to get?](#)
- [My CVS results are abnormal. Now what?](#)
- [How to Decide](#)

Click [here](#) to learn more about scheduling a genetic counseling appointment for pregnancy-related questions.

## Related Articles

- [Amniocentesis](#)  
Amniocentesis is a procedure that can be done during the second trimester of pregnancy (usually between 15 and 22 weeks). Amniocentesis involves getting some of the fluid from around the baby so that the lab can test for chromosome and genetic conditions. Because amniocentesis is an invasive procedure, there is...
- [FISH Test](#)  
FISH, or fluorescence in situ hybridization, is a test that can be done on the cells from

a chorionic villus sampling (CVS) or amniocentesis procedure. FISH can provide rapid results (usually within 48 to 72 hours) for limited chromosome conditions. Most labs offer FISH testing on CVS or amniocentesis cells...

- [Chromosome Analysis](#)

A chromosome analysis, or karyotype, is the traditional testing that has been done on cells from chorionic villus sampling (CVS) and amniocentesis procedures. A karyotype involves the lab examining the cells and determining the number of chromosomes. How the lab determines the number of chromosomes is a lengthy and complicated...

- [Prenatal Chromosomal Microarray](#)

Chromosomal microarray (CMA) is a type of chromosome test that can be done during pregnancy along with an amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS), or can be done for patients who are suspected of having an underlying genetic syndrome. CMA can detect if there are small bits of missing (deletion)...