

Interpreting any prenatal genetic screening result can be challenging. Because of this, it may be helpful to meet with a specialist, such as a genetic counselor, who can review the specifics of your situation to help you understand what your [cfDNA](#) results mean for your pregnancy.

It is important to remember that [cfDNA](#) results, just like other screening results, do not give a 'yes' or 'no' answer to whether a pregnancy has a chromosome condition. [cfDNA](#) may tell you whether the pregnancy is at increased or decreased risk for the conditions that are being tested.

For tests that can provide you with a definitive 'yes' or 'no' answer, read more about [prenatal diagnostic testing](#).

There are many labs that perform [cfDNA](#) testing, and each lab may report their results out in a slightly different way. Here are some examples:

- Positive (increased risk) or negative (decreased risk)
- Aneuploidy detected (increased risk) or no aneuploidy detected (decreased risk)
  - Aneuploidy = extra or missing chromosome material was found
- High risk, intermediate risk, or low risk

Most labs will give you a separate result for each of the conditions they are screening for. For example, you may get a positive/high risk result for [Down syndrome](#), but negative/low risk results for [trisomy 18](#), [trisomy 13](#), etc.

There are some additional things to keep in mind with regard to [cfDNA](#) screening results:

- How well the test works for [Down syndrome](#), [trisomy 18](#), [trisomy 13](#), and other chromosome conditions varies widely. It is important to discuss your results with your provider to understand what they mean for you and your pregnancy.
- Not all labs screen for the same conditions.
- [cfDNA](#) screening can often tell if the baby is a boy or a girl. However, there is a small possibility that the test will predict fetal sex incorrectly.
- [cfDNA](#) screening does not test for all chromosome differences or [birth defects](#).
- In some cases, [cfDNA](#) screening can find evidence of other health conditions that are present either in the baby or in the mother that were not expected.
  - For example, [cfDNA](#) screening in rare cases has identified that a pregnant mom has cancer.

This is a basic overview of [cfDNA](#) screening results. It is important to meet with a specialist, such as your doctor or a genetic counselor, to understand what these results mean for you and your pregnancy.

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

## Related Articles

- [cfDNA Testing: How Does it Work?](#)

Our DNA is inside nearly every cell of our body, and is the instruction manual for how everything in our body grows and functions. Our cells are continuously dividing to create new cells. As cells break down, the DNA inside the cell is released into the blood as fragments or...

- [Conditions Screened for with Cell-Free DNA Tests](#)

cfDNA started as a screening test for Down syndrome, but over time the list of conditions that can be screened for is expanding. Most labs now provide screening for Down syndrome, trisomy 18, and trisomy 13, as well as the sex chromosomes (X and Y). Down syndrome, trisomy 18, and trisomy...

- [cfDNA Testing: No-Call Results](#)

With cfDNA testing, there is a possibility to get a no-call result. A no-call result means that the lab was not able to run the test, or that the test did not produce a result. There are a few possible reasons that prenatal cfDNA screening may not provide a result....

- [cfDNA Testing vs. Traditional Screening](#)

There are pros and cons to both cfDNA screening and traditional screening, such as first trimester screening, second trimester screening, sequential screening, and ultrasound. For some conditions, particularly Down syndrome, cfDNA has been shown to be a more accurate screening test than traditional screening tests. cfDNA may also potentially screen...

- [cfDNA Testing: How to Decide](#)

The decision of whether or not to pursue prenatal genetic testing is up to you. Your doctor and genetic counselor are available to you with all of the information you need to make an informed decision that fits with your beliefs, values, needs, and personality. Your healthcare providers should also...