

# Nuchal Translucency and Combined Risk Assessment

Nuchal Translucency and Combined Risk Assessment is a prenatal screening test to assess the risk for Down's Syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities.

## The Procedure

The 11 – 14 week Combined Risk Assessment is determined from ultrasound criteria, blood test results and other factors such as maternal age. It is based on work by the Foetal Medicine Foundation (FMF) in London and detects about 90% of cases of Down's Syndrome.

The Nuchal Translucency ultrasound scan measures the amount of fluid at the back of the baby's neck. The foetal size is also measured and its body parts are checked as much as possible at this early stage. The nuchal measurement must be obtained from an exact scan plane in a specific foetal position and this may take some time. Occasionally it is necessary to take a break from scanning and try again later in the day.

In order to obtain an accurate risk assessment, the sonographer will ask for additional information such as your pregnancy history, any IVF procedures for this pregnancy and current maternal weight.

The ultrasound operator (sonographer) will give you a referral to Capital Pathology for the blood test. Please note:

1. Obtaining your blood test at an alternative pathology lab can result in considerable delays in processing your result.
2. The specific tests required for the risk assessment (free beta HcG and PAPP-A) may be different to blood tests that your own doctor has requested.
3. There is a fee for the blood test which is payable to Capital pathology.

An initial report of the measurements will be generated on the day of the ultrasound scan. When we receive your blood test results, all the information is entered into the FMF computer software to generate a final risk assessment. This report will be issued to you doctor in approximately one week.

In some cases, you may prefer a risk assessment based on Nuchal Translucency alone. This reduces the sensitivity of the test to about 80%. Your doctor may indicate this on the request form or you can indicate this to our staff at the time of the study.

“... detects about 80% of cases of Down's Syndrome.”

Your ultrasound examination is performed by sonographers who are health professionals specially trained and accredited to perform the test. Sonographers may be male or female. If you have specific concerns regarding the gender of the person performing your ultrasound examination, please make this known to our staff at the time of making your appointment and every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

To ensure that we are providing you with the best service, at any stage of the examination if you have any questions or concerns, please ask our staff.

We also welcome any feedback.



## Appointment

Please phone or SMS our friendly booking service on 1300 788 508 or request an appointment online [www.canberraimaging.com.au](http://www.canberraimaging.com.au)

## What to bring

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment:

- Your referral
- Any relevant films
- Medicare card
- Pension / Health Care card

## Your results

Your doctor will receive fast and convenient electronic access to your reports and images. Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your results with you.