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“Providing high quality healthcare for all stages in a woman’s life”

CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING (CVS)

AMNIOCENTESIS

At the age of 35 and above, the incidence of a chromosomally abnormal fetus increases rapidly with age. Also, this is the age where the risk of amniocentesis to the pregnancy equals the risk of a chromosomally abnormal fetus.

Women that are 35 years old or older at time of delivery are offered invasive genetic testing. There are two such tests available now:

1. Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS)
2. Amniocentesis

Chorionic Villus Sampling is performed by a physician extensively trained to perform such procedure between 10 – 13 weeks. Placental villi are obtained for testing. A catheter is inserted through the cervix or the abdomen under sterile conditions and a small amount of placental tissue is obtained and sent for testing. Risks of CVS include infection, bleeding, fetal loss, rupture of membranes, vaginal spotting, placental separation, and limb reduction abnormalities. The risk of anything going wrong is 1%. Benefits of CVS are: earlier detection of a chromosomal abnormality or a normal fetus alleviating parental stress, and if there is a chromosome abnormality and termination is desired there are safer methods to accomplish that at an earlier gestational age.

Amniocentesis is usually performed between 15-18 weeks. Under sterile conditions and direct visualization with ultrasound, a needle is inserted through the abdomen and into the amniotic sac. Amniotic fluid is withdrawn and sent for testing. Risks from amniocentesis are 1/200 – 1/400 of vaginal spotting, membranes rupturing, fetal loss, separation of placenta, and infection. Amniotic fluid can also give information on the presence or absence of open neural tube defects. In rare occasions if one undergoes CVS there may still be the need later in the pregnancy for an amniocentesis.

Genetic counseling with a specialist is available to me if I want to learn more about any of these procedures. I have read and understand the above. All my questions have been answered by my doctor.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name: _____