

Harmony™

PRENATAL TEST

10/19/17

Speaker :

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Non-invasive prenatal testing is a blood test that analyzes free-floating DNA in maternal blood that originates from the fetus. This “cell-free DNA” can be obtained by a simple blood draw. This technology was developed in an effort to provide more sensitive and specific testing for chromosomal analysis but less invasive than an amniocentesis. NIPT is still considered a screening test and amniocentesis continues to be the diagnostic test used to confirm suspected abnormalities.

The Harmony NIPT test uses a unique testing platform in which targeted portions of DNA are analyzed (SNP technology) to provide a higher level of sensitivity and specificity. The Harmony test also quantifies the percent of fetal DNA fraction from maternal DNA to clearly distinguish high and low probability results. These results are reported with every analysis done and if too low (<4%) then a “no result” is reported.

The NEXT Study: April 2015: The New England Journal of Medicine published the largest blinded study of NIPT testing done to-date: the Harmony Non-Invasive Prenatal Test was compared to the first trimester combined screening. The results found that Harmony testing for trisomy 21 had a higher detection rate, a lower false positive rate, and a higher positive predictive value. In the landmark NEXT Study, Harmony had a 100% trisomy 21 detection rate compared to a 78% detection rate with the first trimester screening.

The Harmony test can be used in the following populations:

- singleton
- twins
- IVF pregnancy
- Donor egg pregnancy
- Surrogate pregnancy

The Harmony test can also be used to test for 22q11.2: the most common microdeletion disorder and the second most common cause of developmental delay and major congenital heart disease.

Hopefully these summary notes are useful or helpful. Thank you for your interest in Phoenix OB/GYN!! The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16th, 2017, and is titled, "A Contemporary Approach to Prevent Preterm Birth." We look forward to all of you joining us!!!

Kelly Helms, MD
Secretary/Treasurer