

Understanding an Unclear NIPT Result

Patient one-pager | OpenMFM plain-language summary

What is NIPT?

NIPT is a blood test used in pregnancy. It looks at small pieces of DNA in the mother's blood. Most of that DNA comes from the placenta. This test is a screening test. It is not the same as a diagnostic test.

What does an unclear result mean?

- The test did not give a clear answer.
- An unclear result is not a diagnosis.

Getting no result does NOT mean something is wrong with your baby. It means the test needs more information. Your doctor will work with you to get that answer.

Why can this happen?

- There may not have been enough placental DNA in the blood sample.
- The pregnancy may be very early.
- The placenta may be giving a mixed or unclear signal.
- Sometimes the test sees something that needs more checking.

What happens next?

- Your doctor may review your ultrasound.
- You may be offered another screening test.
- You may be offered diagnostic testing, such as CVS or amniocentesis, if you want a more definite answer.
- A genetics counselor may help explain your options.

Questions you can ask your doctor

1. What exactly did my result say?
2. Does my ultrasound change what this result means?
3. Should I repeat the screening test, or should I think about diagnostic testing?
4. What would the next test tell us?
5. How urgent is this decision?

Bottom line: An unclear NIPT result can be stressful, but it is not a final diagnosis. Ask what the result means, what it does not mean, and what test or follow-up is best for you.