ANTENATAL SCREENING FOR CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

Abstract

A method for antenatal screening for chromosomal abnormalities in which a maternal body fluid from a pregnant women is measured for the level of at least one marker and/or a precursor or metabolite of said marker and the measured level of this marker together with the gestational age of the pregnant woman are compared to reference values at various gestational ages of the level for the marker in (a) pregnant women carrying foetuses having the abnormalitie(s) subject to the screen and (b) pregnant women carrying normal foetuses, the comparison being indicative of the risk of the pregnant woman carrying a foetus with an abnormality subject to the screen characterised in that the level of the marker is affected by maternal age and in making the comparison allowance is made for the age of the pregnant woman.

(no drawing to accompany the abstract)