

Abstract**ENRICHMENT AND IDENTIFICATION OF FETAL CELLS IN MATERNAL BLOOD
AND LIGANDS FOR SUCH USE**

5

The present invention relates to enrichment and/or identification of fetal cells of a maternal blood sample using fetal cell specific ligands and/or fetal cell specific hybridization probes wherein the ligand or probes are directed to an endothelial/ mesenchymal marker, e.g. CD105, CD146 or CD141, in a first round of enrichment and the ligand or probes, in a second round of enrichment,
10 are directed to an epithelial marker, e.g. a cytokeratin, such as CK7, CK8, CK18 or CK19. Enriched or identified fetal cells may be subjected to steps of detection or diagnosis, wherefore the present invention enables non- invasive 5 prenatal diagnostics.

[No Suitable Fig.]