

ANTENATAL SCREENING FOR CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

Abstract

A method for antenatal screening for chromosomal abnormalities in which maternal blood from a pregnant woman is measured for levels of free beta hCG and at least a second serum marker and/or precursors and metabolites of these markers and the measured levels of these markers together with the gestational age of the pregnant woman are compared to reference values at various gestational ages of the levels for free beta hCG and the second serum marker in (a) pregnant women carrying fetuses having the abnormalitie(s) subject to the screen and (b) pregnant women carrying normal fetuses, the comparison being indicative of the risk of the pregnant woman carrying a fetus with an abnormality subject to the screen characterised in that the second serum marker is pregnancy associated plasma protein A (PAPPA) and the screen is carried out by the end of the thirteenth (13th) completed week of pregnancy.