

HOW DO I GET THE RESULTS?

Results are usually available within 3 - 4 days after you have your blood test and we will fax the combined risk result to your doctor.

We encourage you to discuss the results with your doctor should you have any questions or concerns.

WHAT IF MY RESULTS SHOW INCREASED RISK?

Even if you have an increased risk factor, please keep in mind that many high risk pregnancies result in normal babies.

If you are concerned, more invasive tests such as amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS) can provide you with an accurate diagnosis.

Your doctor will be able to explain the benefits and risks of these procedures.

A low risk does not mean NO risk.

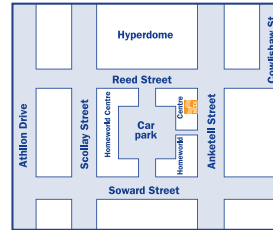
MORE INFORMATION

www.nuchaltrans.edu.au

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact our practices.

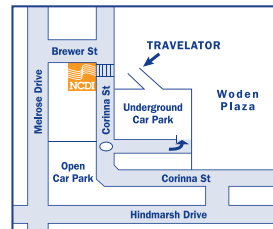


Nuchal Translucency Ultrasound is available at all NCDI Practices:



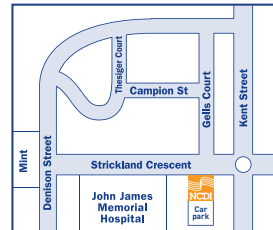
TUGGERANONG

Suite 10a, Homeworld Centre
Anketell Street,
Tuggeranong ACT 2900
Ph: 6293 2922



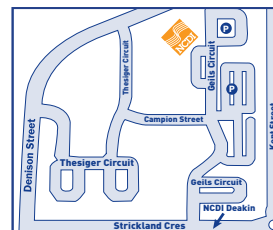
CORINNA CHAMBERS

36-38 Corinna St,
Woden ACT 2606
Ph: 6214 2222



CANBERRA SPECIALIST CENTRE

161 Strickland Crescent,
Deakin ACT 2600
Ph: 6124 1900



GEILS COURT

39 Geils Court,
Deakin ACT 2600
Ph: 6122 7878

Please bring your referral and any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.

NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY



A Nuchal Translucency Ultrasound measures the fluid at the back of the baby's neck between 11 and 13 weeks of pregnancy



WHAT IS A NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY SCAN?

Nuchal Translucency is a small layer of fluid at the back of your baby's neck and is situated between the skin and the surrounding soft tissue. All babies have this layer of fluid but in the case of a chromosomal abnormality, the thickness of the layer tends to be increased.

A Nuchal Translucency Scan (NTS) measures this thickness and is used to screen for chromosomal abnormalities, the most common of which is Down Syndrome.



During the scan, images are acquired using soundwaves that carry no risk to yourself or your unborn child.

WHEN IS THE SCAN PERFORMED?

The nuchal translucency is only present in the early stages of your baby's development. The scan can be performed between 11 weeks 3 days and 13 weeks 6 days weeks.

The best time to make an appointment is around 12 weeks.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE SCAN?

An NTS is like any other ultrasound procedure. However, the sonographer performing your examination must be accredited by the Foetal Medicine Foundation whose work established the test and maintains the strict standard by which the scan should be carried out.

During the scan, images are acquired using soundwaves that carry no risk to yourself or your unborn child.

In the majority of cases NTS images are obtained externally. A layer of gel is spread over your stomach before a probe is moved over the area to obtain the required images.

In very rare cases, we may also require an internal scan to obtain the best possible images. This involves placing a small probe into your vagina and is not harmful to the pregnancy.

To increase the accuracy of the NTS, it is usually performed in conjunction with a blood test known as 'first trimester serum biochemistry'. This blood test is used to measure the levels of two hormones: (1) free β -hCG and (2) PAPP-A.

In pregnancies affected by Down Syndrome there is a tendency for the levels of free β -hCG to be increased and the PAPP-A to be decreased.

This risk factor is expressed in the "1 in x" format, for example 1 in 1,000 or 1 in 300. The combination of an NTS and a blood

test in determining risk provides a 90% detection rate of chromosomal abnormalities.



DO I NEED TO HAVE THIS BLOOD TEST BEFORE THE ULTRASOUND?

The sonographer will give you a pathology request form at the conclusion of the ultrasound and let you know where the nearest collection centre is located.

The pathology company will charge a fee for the blood test.

The fee for the ultrasound and the blood test is claimable through Medicare.