



December 1, 2013

Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) for Down syndrome

Hong Kong Molecular Pathology Diagnostic Centre is pleased to introduce the Harmony™ Prenatal Test, a new non-invasive blood test for Down syndrome using cell-free DNA technology. This test can be performed as early as 10 weeks gestation and carries a **>99% accuracy rate for Down syndrome with a low false positive rate of 0.1%**.^{1,2} The test also screens for Trisomies 18, 13, and it can also evaluate fetal sex and sex chromosome (X,Y) conditions.

The Harmony test can be ordered for all in vitro fertilization (IVF) singleton pregnancies, including those with egg donors. Samples from pregnant women with twins naturally conceived, or those conceived using the patient's own egg, are also accepted.³

In conjunction with Ariosa Diagnostics®, a laboratory in the United States, we now offer NIPT to your patients. Ariosa (www.ariosadx.com) uses its proprietary technology to perform a directed analysis of cell-free DNA in blood that offers an alternative to current methods of testing for trisomy and sex chromosome conditions.

For further information or to refer your patient for testing, please contact Hong Kong Molecular Pathology Diagnostic Centre.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wong

Further reading:

1. Norton ME, Brar H, Weiss J, et al. Non-Invasive Chromosomal Evaluation (NICE) Study: results of a multicenter prospective cohort study for detection of fetal Trisomy 21 and Trisomy 18. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2012;207.
2. Nicolaides KH, Syngelaki A, Ashoor G, et al. Noninvasive prenatal testing for fetal trisomies in a routinely screened first-trimester population. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2012;207:374.e1-6.
3. This test does not assess risk for mosaicism, partial trisomies or translocations.