

Result Navigator

Your screening result is positive for trisomy 13 (Patau syndrome).

Expectant parents often have questions about what a positive result means and what to do next. This information answers some common questions and helps guide you on this journey.

What is trisomy 13?

Every year, about 500 babies in the United States are born with trisomy 13 (an extra chromosome 13). Children with trisomy 13 have severe, life-threatening health problems. Miscarriage of a pregnancy with trisomy 13 is common. Babies who survive birth often do not live past the first few weeks of life.

Trisomy 13 happens by chance. There is nothing that a parent can do to cause or prevent trisomy 13, and it doesn't usually run in families.

▶ What does “positive” mean?

A positive screening result does not diagnose your baby with trisomy 13. It means your baby's risk to have trisomy 13 is higher than most other babies.

Information about you and your baby was used to calculate the chance that this result correctly predicts that your baby has trisomy 13. This is called a positive predictive value (PPV) on your report. Other information may change this value. It is important to discuss PPV with your provider.

●●● What other tests can tell me more?

| Other Tests | What will it tell me? | When can I do it? | How is it done? | Is there added risk to my baby? | How long do results take? |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| Prenatal Diagnostic Test | It tells you if your baby definitely has trisomy 13. | During pregnancy (At certain times) | Chorionic villus sample (CVS) or an amniotic fluid sample | Yes. Discuss risks with your provider. | 1-2 weeks |
| Prenatal Ultrasound Screen | It tells you if your baby's risk might be higher or lower. | During pregnancy (At certain times) | Non-invasive imaging | No. There are no added risks. | Immediate |
| Postnatal Diagnostic Test | It tells you if your baby definitely has trisomy 13. | After birth (At any time) | Blood sample from baby | No. There are no added risks. | About 1 week |

What should I do next?

Take time to process this information. Write down additional questions. Then, talk with your provider about ways you can learn more about your pregnancy.

▶ Where do I find more information?

Genetics Home Reference
ghr.nlm.nih.gov

Genetic Support Foundation
geneticsupportfoundation.org