

# Result Navigator

## Your screening result is positive for trisomy 18 (Edwards 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 18?

Every year, about 1,100 babies in the United States are born with trisomy 18 (an extra chromosome 18). Children with trisomy 18 have severe, life-threatening health problems. Miscarriage of a pregnancy with trisomy 18 is common. Babies who survive birth often do not live past the first few weeks of life.

**Trisomy 18 happens by chance.** There is nothing that a parent can do to cause or prevent trisomy 18, and it doesn't usually run in families.

### ▶ What does “positive” mean?

A positive screening result does not diagnose your baby with trisomy 18. It means your baby's risk to have trisomy 18 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 18. 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?
<b>Prenatal Diagnostic Test</b>	It tells you if your baby definitely has trisomy 18.	During pregnancy (At certain times)	Chorionic villus sample (CVS) or an amniotic fluid sample	Yes. Discuss risks with your provider.	1-2 weeks
<b>Prenatal Ultrasound Screen</b>	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
<b>Postnatal Diagnostic Test</b>	It tells you if your baby definitely has trisomy 18.	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](http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov)

**Genetic Support Foundation**  
[geneticsupportfoundation.org](http://geneticsupportfoundation.org)