DAVIE OBGYN

TopLine MD Alliance

15-16 weeks – Genetic Screening

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What is it?

prenatal screening is a series of tests that are done during pregnancy. The tests tell you what the chances are that your baby has a birth defect, such as Down syndrome or spina bifida. The screening can find out if your baby is at higher risk than normal for problems. But it can't tell you for sure that your baby has a problem. The test is essential to identify if you are at increased risk (and would need a diagnostic test such as an Amniocentesis) or if you are at an average risk compared to the general population.

What do the results mean?

If your screening results are "positive," it doesn't prove that your baby has a birth defect. But it does mean that your baby is more likely to have a birth defect. In that case, your doctor may want you to have another test to make sure. That test is called a **diagnostic test**.
If the screening results are "negative," it means that your baby is less likely to have a birth defect. But it doesn't guarantee that you will have a normal pregnancy or a baby without birth defects. **However, it gives you reassurance that the chances of fetal anomaly is very small.**

What happens next?
You should have an **anatomy scan** done between 18-22 weeks and if that detailed ultrasound fails to identify structural issues, there is a good chance that your baby has no identifiable fetal anomalies to worry about. Remember, there is no test that is 100% accurate, but these tests are pretty darn good in giving us reassurance. 😊 MAKE SURE YOUR ANATOMY SCAN IS SCHEDULED OR REQUESTED AT THIS APPOINTMENT SO YOU HAVE IT DONE BY 20-22 WEEKS OF YOUR PREGNANCY