

# Patient Satisfaction with Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) for Chromosomal Abnormalities

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## OBJECTIVE

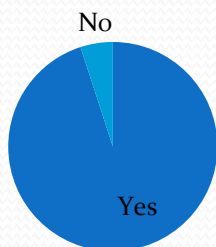
NIPT has been developed in an attempt to detect chromosomal abnormalities, with increased sensitivity and specificity, when compared with traditional combined screening methods. Furthermore, it potentially reduces need for invasive tests, that include amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling, and their associated risk of miscarriage.

The aim of this study was to ascertain patient satisfaction with the NIPT at IVF Australia and identify potential areas for improvement in the service.

## METHODS

All patients who underwent NIPT at IVF Australia between December 2013 and June 2014 were sent letters inviting them to take part in a short telephone interview exploring their experience. 100 patients were interviewed by using a structured interview including both qualitative and quantitative questions.

Would you recommend this test to a friend?



## CONCLUSION

Overall patient satisfaction with the NIPT was very high and seems to provide patients with more reassurance than traditional aneuploidy screening. The only difficulties reported were regarding requirements for repeat samples, which patients were made aware of prior to undergoing the test and even some of these patients still felt the test was worthwhile overall. A potential area for improvement would be regarding pre-test counselling.

## RESULTS

Overall 98% of women felt it was a worthwhile test that they would recommend to a friend, particularly for older women, women with a history of problems in a previous pregnancy and women wishing to avoid invasive procedures. Regarding problems with the test, 9 women required a repeat sample and 5 women required 2 repeat samples but did not obtain a final result. 69% of women asked to find out the sex of the child, of whom 50% felt this was a major advantage. Stress of waiting for a result was rated between 1 (least) and 5 (most) with a mean score of 1.7, increasing to 2.6 when waiting for a repeat result.

43% of women opted to have another 12-week ultrasound scan other than with their obstetrician for additional reassurance. This was more common in individuals requiring a repeat test and those particularly anxious about structural defects. 49% were undergoing an IVF pregnancy and the median age at which the test was performed was 10 weeks gestation. 43% women were multiparous, of whom 93% had undergone traditional combined screening for aneuploidies in a previous pregnancy. Of these women, 78% felt that the NIPT provided more reassurance and 65% felt it was more convenient. 89% of women understood the information provided in the brochure although 30% of women would have preferred more counselling before the test.

Did you take the cost into account when deciding whether or not to have the test?

