RCSI FETAL MEDICINE CENTRE

How to find us

RCSI Fetal Medicine Centre
RCSI Unit
The Rotunda Hospital
Parnell Square
Dublin 1

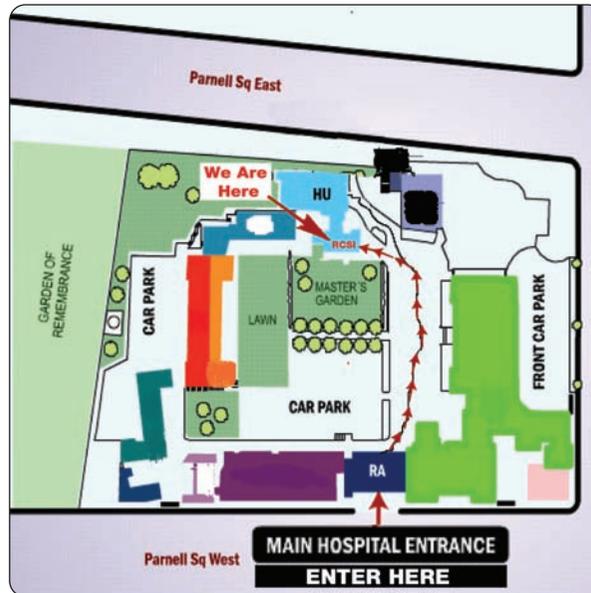TEL: (01) 878 6070   FAX: (01) 873 3760

The RCSI Fetal Medicine Centre is located within the centre of the Rotunda Hospital garden area. Follow signs for RCSI Unit and HARI Unit.

Disc parking is available on Parnell Square and a secure parking lot is available in the ILAC Centre on Parnell Street, opposite the front entrance to the hospital.

RCSI *Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland*

RCSI FETAL MEDICINE CENTRE

Patient Information
Second Trimester Screening
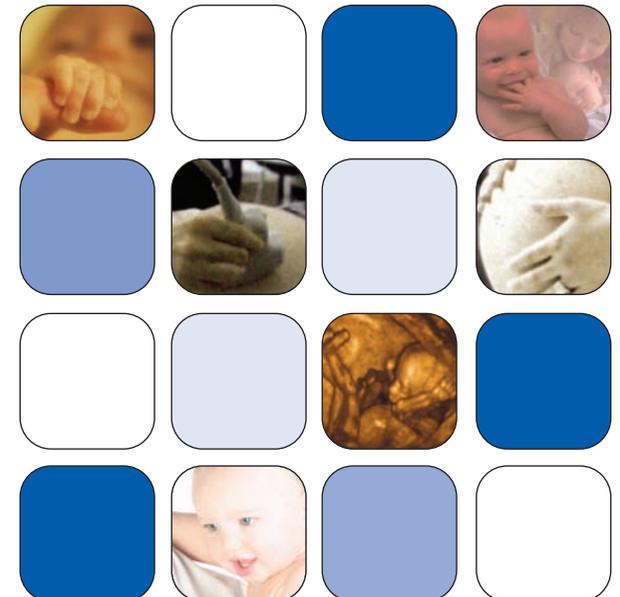
The vast majority of babies are normal. However all women, whatever their age, have a small risk of delivering a baby with a physical or a mental abnormality. In some cases this may be due to a chromosomal problem such as Down syndrome, or a problem with the baby's spine such as spina bifida.

The only way to know for sure whether or not your baby may have a chromosomal problem is by having an invasive test, such as an amniocentesis (amnio). However, this test has a small chance of causing a miscarriage of about 0.5% or less (about one chance in 200 or less).

This STS test helps you and your partner decide whether the chances that your baby may have a chromosomal problem is high enough to warrant having an invasive test, such as an amnio.

The Second Trimester Screening test is carried out at 14 to 21 weeks of pregnancy.

This test measures the level of four proteins normally found in your blood during pregnancy. These are AFP, hCG, oestriol, and Inhibin-A. Based on the level of these four proteins, your age and the results of a detailed ultrasound scan (the Fetal Anomaly Scan), we can calculate the chances that your baby may have Down syndrome or other chromosomal problem such as Trisomy-18, or spina bifida.

As the STS blood tests are analysed in a special laboratory in the United Kingdom, the results of this test will take up to 10 days before they will be available. This STS test can identify about 80% of cases of Down syndrome, about 95% of cases of Trisomy-18, and about 95% of babies with spina bifida.

This STS scan also provides other very useful information:

- Dating of the pregnancy
- Number of fetuses present, if twins, whether they are identical or not
- Detects obvious fetal abnormalities

It is important to remember that a screening test does not guarantee a normal baby. Therefore you should carefully compare the advantages and disadvantages of a screening test (like STS) compared with a diagnostic test (like amnio).

Only you can decide if you wish to have an invasive diagnostic test, like amnio, and you will always have the right to choose this definitive test if you prefer. It is also recommended that you have a further scan at 20 weeks to check for other abnormalities.

Following the completion of the STS test, you will be given an outcome form and we would be grateful if you would complete this and return it to us, when your pregnancy is finished. This information is important for us to keep track of how well our service is performing and for our continuing research in fetal medicine.

We may also need to contact you again, your GP or your hospital to obtain further details about your pregnancy and your baby's health. All such information will be treated as confidential and anonymous data may be used for our research.

If you prefer that we do not collect this information, please tick this box. ☐

Once you have finished reading this form please sign and date below and return the form to the RCSI Unit.

- I have read the background information about Second Trimester Screening, and I understand the difference between a screening and a diagnostic test

- I understand that the Second Trimester Screening test provides an estimate of the chances that my baby is healthy or may have a problem like Down syndrome, but it cannot guarantee either of these outcomes

Name ....

Signature ....

Date ....