



CPAL

Central Pennsylvania Alliance
Laboratory

Technical Bulletin Number 15

Familial History of Neural Tube Defects

When there is a familial history of neural tube defects (NTD), there may be an increased risk for NTD in a subsequent pregnancy. The risk is dependent upon the degree of relatedness of the previous NTD affected individual to the current fetus. The relative risk information is available from the Scarborough Foundation for Blood Research. CPAL will provide a comment about the relative risk for NTD in pregnancies where there is a history of previous NTD. Information about previous NTDs must be supplied to CPAL together with other prenatal maternal information including method of dating, estimated date of delivery, maternal date of birth, maternal weight, IDDM status, race, and whether this is a twin pregnancy.

When previous NTD history is present, the following comment will be appended to the report:

“PLEASE NOTE: This patient has a family history of NTD and, therefore, the NTD risk assessment projected in this report may be underestimated. If the fetus has a first degree relative with an NTD, the risk is increased 10-20 fold to 1-2%. If the fetus has a second degree relative with an NTD, the risk is increased 5 fold to 0.5% and if the relationship is third degree, the risk is increased about 2.5 fold to 0.25%. These data were published in Prenatal Screening for Major Fetal Disorders: The Foundation for Blood Research Handbook 1990;1:1-14.”

NTD History will be available at CPAL on April 1, 2000.

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For question about this, and other, information, call Central Pennsylvania Laboratory at 1-888-480-1422