

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR PATIENTS TAKE 1ST TRIMESTER NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY SERUM SCREENING?

The ACOG Practice Bulletin published in Dec 2007 states:
“Maternal age of 35 years alone should no longer be used as a threshold to determine who is offered screening versus who is offered invasive testing. ... A strategy that incorporates both first and second trimester screening should be offered to women who seek prenatal care in the first trimester. “

Hence, **all** patients who present for prenatal care who are less than 14 weeks of gestation should be offered the Sequential Screen. The sensitivity of the Sequential Screen for the diagnosis of Trisomy 21 has been reported to be approximately 90%. In addition, a thickened NT had also been associated with an increased risk of Congenital Heart Defects, Abdominal Wall Defects, Diaphragmatic Hernias and possibly other Third Trimester Complications.