

What's the difference?

Prenatal Screening



Screening tests

estimate the chance of having a baby with certain birth defects. They can help you decide whether or not to have a diagnostic test.

Prenatal Diagnosis



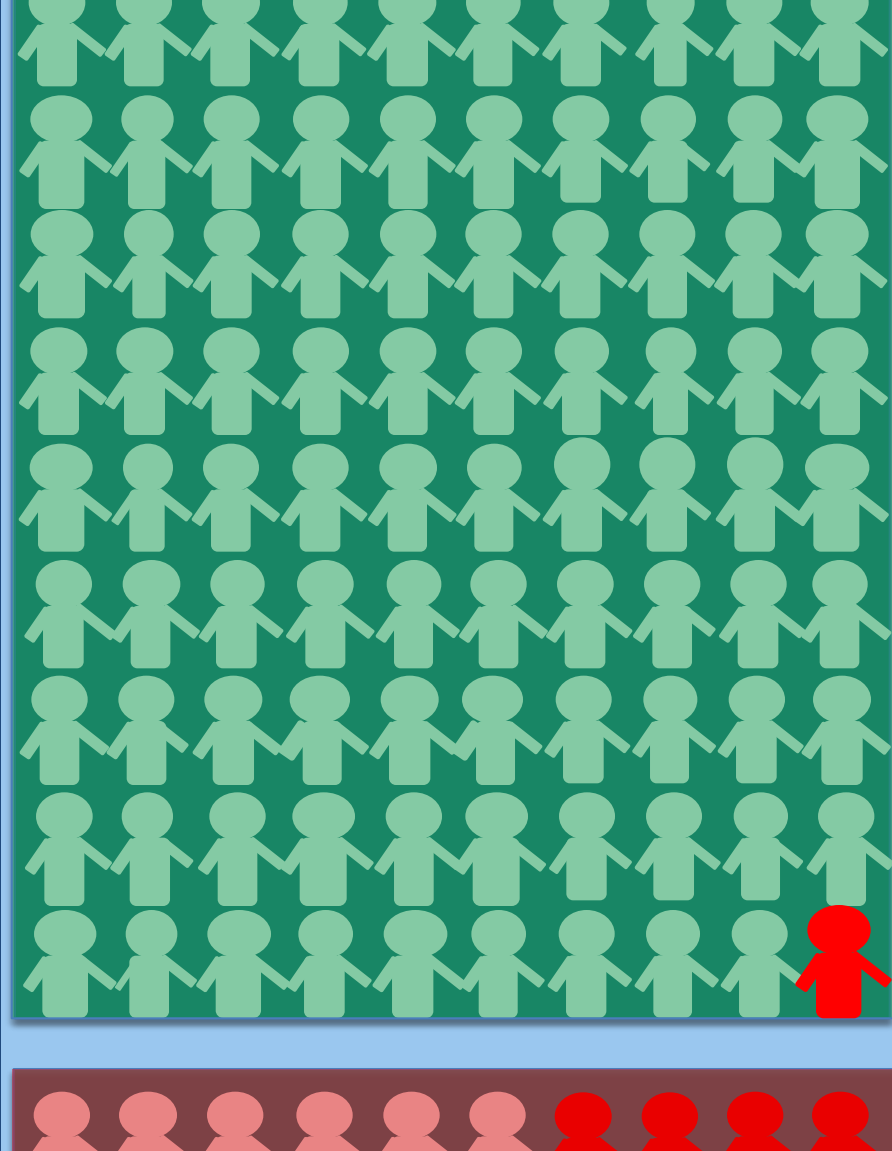
Diagnostic tests

can tell you for sure if the developing baby has certain birth defects. A positive prenatal screening result may be one reason to consider a diagnostic test.

Both are valid options, and the choice is entirely yours. You may also choose to have no testing at all.

A screening test can tell you about your risk:

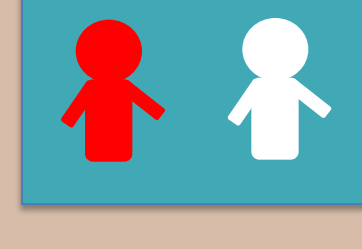
Screen Negative:
Lower Risk



Screen Positive:
Higher Risk

A diagnostic test can tell you for sure:

Is my baby affected?



YES NO

Both diagnostic and screening tests can only look for certain conditions or birth defects. No test can detect all birth defects.

Screening Tests Have Limitations

They don't give definite answers.

They can cause concern in a healthy pregnancy or miss a birth defect.

Diagnostic Tests Have Risks

They require an amniocentesis or CVS procedure.

These procedures have less than a 1 in 500 chance of pregnancy loss.

The California Prenatal Screening Program is available to all pregnant women in California. This Program will cover follow-up services for a "screen positive" result, including diagnostic testing.

Diagnostic tests may or may not be covered by insurance plans, or might not be as affordable as screening tests.

Is screening for me?

The choice of what kind of testing to get (if any) is entirely yours. You should choose what works best for you.

Is diagnosis for me?

To learn more about screening tests, click here.

To learn more about diagnostic tests, click here.