

# Doctors stress pre-natal genetic screening

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

Senior foetal medicine experts and biologists on Wednesday stressed the need for pre-natal genetic screening of pregnant women to identify chromosomal disorders in babies before birth.

Pre-natal genetic screening can identify such chromosomal abnormalities in the foetus, which will allow parents to take an informed decision, they said while interacting with presspersons.

Every year, more than 38,000 babies are born in India with the Down Syndrome and yet, only 50 per cent of pregnant Indian women undergo full ante-natal check-up.

“Even if couples decide to go ahead with pregnancy, genetic or chromosomal screening gives them an opportunity to adjust to this information before the baby is born. Prenatal genetic screening plays a big role in reducing the incidence of chromosomal disorders,” said geneticist, Vasikarla Madhavi, Fernandez Hospital.

Doctors said in India, for every 166 live births, one infant is born with chromosomal defects. “Since the population in India is high, there is a greater incidence of Down Syndrome. Other common disorders include Edwards syndrome, Patau syndrome and Turner syndrome,” said a specialist in Foetal Medicine, Dr Tulika Tayal.