Genetic testing for Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

Provide your patients the best clarity to the underlying causes of miscarriage and plan for future pregnancies.
What is Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)?

- RPL is defined as three consecutive pregnancy losses prior to 20 weeks from the last menstrual period\(^1\).
- It is reported in approximately 1% to 2% of pregnant women.
- Current techniques can identify up to 50% of couples suffering from RPL.\(^2\).
- Genetic causes account for about 2 - 5% of RPL.\(^1\).

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What are the cause of RPL?

- 30% to 50% of all miscarriages are due to cytogenetic reasons³
- 2% to 4% of RPL is associated with a parental balanced structural chromosome rearrangement, most commonly balanced reciprocal or Robertsonian translocations¹
- Other reasons include chromosomal inversions, insertions, and mosaicism¹

Genetic testing for RPL

Consists of testing the products of conception and/or the parents with appropriate pre and post-test genetic counselling.

What is Products of Conception (POC) testing?

POC testing can detect whether the pregnancy had an abnormal chromosome number (aneuploidy) that might have caused a miscarriage. The information from POC testing can be helpful for patients and physicians to understand the cause of miscarriage and to develop a plan to support a future successful pregnancy.

Who should undergo POC testing?

- Any couple who have a pregnancy loss with fetal abnormalities
- Couples who have had a miscarriage
- Couples with recurrent pregnancy loss
- Couples undergoing IVF who have have repeated miscarriage

How is POC testing done?

POC testing was done earlier using Karyotyping and FISH. At the MedGenome Center for Genetic Healthcare we offer the following POC tests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test name</th>
<th>Specimen type</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>TAT (Working days)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POC all trimester + FISH (7 probes)</td>
<td>Minimum 20 mg of Products of Conception in sterile container in RPMI1640+1% Antibiotic. Cardiac/Cord or cord blood in Sodium Heparin Vacutainer</td>
<td>Karyotyping + FISH*</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>POC-1st trimester</td>
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<td>POC-2nd trimester</td>
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<tr>
<td>POC-2nd and 3rd trimester cord/cardiac blood</td>
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*FISH is only performed as a reflex test for POC samples, if cell culture fails.

Parental Karyotype Testing

About 5% of couples with RPL have been known to carry Robertsonian translocations and balanced reciprocal translocations. Both the specific chromosome(s) affected and the types of rearrangement influence the probability of a future live birth.

Conventional karyotyping can be used in such cases. Standard method can detect most chromosomal abnormalities. Pre and post-test genetic counselling are essential.⁴
POC using Chromosomal Microarray (CMA)

Recently POC testing is being performed using molecular tests such as Chromosomal Microarray. Claria POC testing is done using the Affymetrix Optima Chromosomal Microarray (CMA).

Advantages of using CMA

- No cell culture is necessary
- Highly sensitive platform with >99% sensitivity for detection of chromosomal deletion/duplications
- The array has whole genome coverage and increase coverage targeting 396 regions relevant for prenatal analysis (18,018 CNV and 148,450 SNP)
- Increased coverage density (25 markers/100 kb) in 396 empirically selected regions relevant for prenatal research
- It can detect low levels of Mosaicism in the sample
- A minimum resolution of 1 MB for losses, 2 MB for gains, and 5 MB for LOH/AOH (Loss/Absence of Heterozygosity)

Test sample requirement

Minimum 100mg of Product of Conception (POC)

Taken in a sterile 15ml falcon tube either in a saline solution +1% antibiotic or RPMI1640+10%FBS+1% antibiotic

Formalin fixed or degraded samples will not be accepted

Also provide 3ml of maternal whole blood in a EDTA vaccutainer for Maternal Cell Contamination check.

References:


Claria from MedGenome offers the complete range of Reproductive Testing solutions

- Non-Invasive Prenatal Screening Test
- Carrier Screening Test
- Pre-implantation Genetic Screening/Diagnosis
- POC/Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Testing
- Cytogenetic Testing
- Prenatal Diagnostics

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