

Comparing FIRST and Quad Screening

	FIRST	QUAD
When is it performed?	11-14 weeks	15-23 weeks
What is involved?	Ultrasound and blood test	Blood test
What does it screen for?	Down Syndrome, Trisomy 18	Down syndrome, Trisomy 18, Open Spina Bifida, and Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome
What is the detection rate? *	Down Syndrome: 80-85% Trisomy 18: 90%	Down Syndrome: 70% Trisomy 18: 60% Open Spina Bifida: 80%
What is the screen positive rate? *	5%	5%

** Detection rates and screen positives rates vary by laboratory*

Benefits of FIRST:

- ❖ Available earlier in pregnancy
- ❖ Ultrasound may show an increased risk for heart defects or other birth defects

Benefits of Quad screening:

- ❖ Less expensive
- ❖ Screens for Down Syndrome, Trisomy 18 and open neural tube defects in one step

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Can I still have screening for Spina Bifida if I have FIRST?
Yes. In the second trimester, screening for Spina Bifida is done by a blood test called AFP-only or by targeted ultrasound.
2. Should I have both FIRST and Quad screening?
No. There is no benefit to screening for Down syndrome and Trisomy 18 twice.
3. Could these tests pick up anything else?
Yes. Sometimes prenatal screening will show an increased risk for other rare conditions. You will meet with a genetic counselor or other health care provider to discuss what that could mean for your pregnancy.