

Placental Growth Factor Testing at Mater Pathology

Placental growth factor (PIGF) is a protein involved in the development of blood vessels (angiogenesis) in the placenta. In conjunction with clinical judgement and other diagnostic tests, PIGF-based tests are used to help diagnose pre-eclampsia. It is measured in plasma or serum using the sensitive Delfia Xpress PIGF 1-2-3™ assay which is now available at Mater Pathology.

About the Test:

- There is a progressive rise in PIGF levels throughout normal pregnancy, with peak levels seen at 26-30 weeks. The absence of this rise in PIGF levels is suggestive of placental dysfunction associated with a higher risk for pre-eclampsia. For pre-eclampsia risk prediction, PIGF measurement at gestational weeks 11-13 is combined with maternal history and characteristics mean arterial blood pressure, and the Uterine Artery Pulsatility Index using Doppler ultrasound. The early identification of women at high risk of this potentially devastating condition before symptoms occur, allows for more effective monitoring and management.
- PIGF measurement (if requested) at gestational weeks 9-13 can be used in Trisomy 21 risk prediction.

The test is not rebatable by Medicare and costs \$40.

For further information please phone Dr Oliver Treacy or Dr Tony Huynh (Chemical Pathologists) on 3163 8500.