

Client Information Sheet 2: Cystic Fibrosis Screening

Cystic Fibrosis Summary

Cystic Fibrosis, or CF, causes lung, intestinal, and pancreatic ailments often resulting in numerous extensive hospitalizations and a shortened life expectancy. CF occurs in 1 in 2,500 children in the United States. Approximately 1 in 25 adults carry the gene for CF. If two carriers have a baby together, they have a 1 in 4 chance that the child will get the disease. Testing is controversial; however, it is offered at the preconception visit or early in the pregnancy to all couples.

How is the test performed?

The test consists of drawing blood from the mother.

Who is at risk for CF?

While CF can occur in any ethnic group, it is most common in people of northern European or Jewish heritage. It is slightly less common in Africans and much less common in people of Asian descent.

What if I test positive?

If you test positive then the father of the baby will need to be tested. If you both test positive, your children have a 1 in 4 chance of having CF. You will then be referred to a genetic counselor.