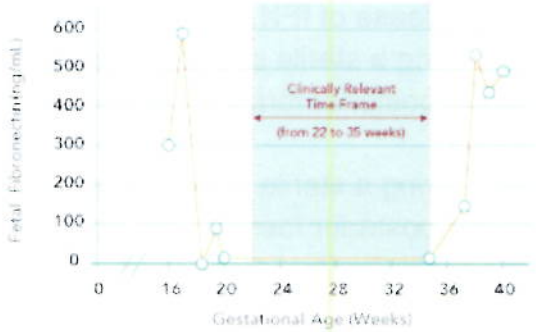
# Fetal Fibronectin (fFN)

Laboratory Alliance of Central New York has offered fetal fibronectin (fFN) analysis for our hospital and outreach clients since 2004. This testing is currently performed at our Upstate University Hospital – Community Campus site. Beginning April 26, 2016, with the addition of St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center Rapid Response Laboratory as the second testing facility, fFN analysis will be performed at two Laboratory Alliance locations.

fFN is a glycoprotein found in amniotic fluid and placental tissue. It is released into the cervicovaginal fluid prior to birth. In ectocervical and posterior vaginal swabs, fFN levels are normally undetectable from 22 – 35 weeks gestation.




Positive results during this time are useful in identifying women at risk for preterm delivery. In asymptomatic women at less than 34 weeks gestation, the specificity of fFN testing is approximately 88% for predicting preterm delivery with a negative predictive value of approximately 94%.

In symptomatic patients, negative fFN results identify women at very low risk of imminent delivery (<1% will deliver within the next 7 to 14 days). Positive fFN results identify those at highest risk for delivery within the next 7 to 14 days.

fFN testing should not be performed in the following cases:

- Placenta previa or abruption
- Gross maternal blood contamination
- Preeclampsia
- Advanced cervical dilation (>3cm) or ruptured membranes
- Sexual intercourse in preceding 24 hours
- Multiple gestation, e.g. twins
- Cervical cerclage

fFN testing is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with STAT results available within 1 hour of receipt of specimen in the testing laboratory.

**Test Code:** FFN

**Method:** Solid-phase immunochromatography

**Specimen Requirements:** Hologic® fFN Specimen Collection Kit (provided by the laboratory)

**Collection Notes:**

1. Take care not to contaminate specimen with lubricants, soaps or disinfectants.
2. The specimen must be obtained prior to digital cervical examination, vaginal probe ultrasound examination, or collection of swabs for culture, as manipulation of the cervix may cause release of fFN.
3. Symptomatic women: During a sterile speculum examination, lightly rotate the supplied swab across the posterior fornix for approximately 10 seconds to absorb cervicovaginal secretions.
4. Asymptomatic women: During a sterile speculum examination, lightly rotate the supplied swab across the posterior fornix or the ectocervical region of the external cervical os for approximately 10 seconds to absorb cervicovaginal secretions.
5. Place swab in transport tube. Break the shaft at the score.
6. Align the shaft with the tube cap and push down, tightly sealing the tube.

**Transport:** Specimens collected and transported internally within the hospital facility may be delivered ambient (<25°C, <77°F).
Transport specimens from all other locations refrigerated (2 - 8°C).

**Stability:** Ambient (<25°C, <77°F): 8 hours, Refrigerated: 3 days

**Schedule:** Daily

**Billing Code:** 1010277

**CPT Code:** 82731

Questions regarding fFN testing may be directed to Cheryl Haskins, MS, MT(ASCP)SC, Manager, Chemistry and Referral Testing, at 315-410-7014 or cherylhaskins@lacny.com.

**References:**


1. Peaceman AM et al. Fetal Fibronectin as a Predictor of Preterm Birth in Patients with Symptoms: A multicenter trial. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 1997;177:13-18.
2. Hologic Rapid fFN Product Information, Hologic, Inc. 1240 Elko Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94089. www.hologic.com


4/5/16, cmh/jar