

Offering Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening when there is a failing twin pregnancy at the early pregnancy dating scan

Early pregnancy dating scan showing an empty second pregnancy sac

Where the early pregnancy dating scan shows that there is an empty second pregnancy sac, Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening **can** be offered.

- **The combined screening test** can be performed between 11⁺² weeks and 14⁺¹ weeks and;
- **The quadruple screening test** can be performed between 15⁺⁰ weeks and 18⁺⁰ weeks.

Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) cannot be offered for higher chance results if there was at any point in this pregnancy a 2nd sac or fetus. In this instance, options for the woman are:

- no further testing, or
- an invasive test.

Early pregnancy dating scan showing a second pregnancy sac containing a non-viable fetus or a fetal pole

Where the early pregnancy dating scan shows that there is a second pregnancy sac containing a non-viable fetus or a fetal pole, Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening should **not** be offered. Women should **not** be offered a further scan for the purposes of screening for these conditions. This is because there could be a contribution to the maternal biochemical markers for many weeks and therefore the screening result would not be accurate. ⁱ

ⁱ Huang T, Boucher K, Aul R, Rashid S, Meschino WS. First and second trimester maternal serum markers in pregnancies with a vanishing twin. Prenat Diagn. 2015;35(1):90-96. doi:10.1002/pd.4492