Information Sheet:  
Choroid Plexus Cyst(s)

What is a choroid plexus cyst (CPC)?
• The choroid plexus are normal parts of both sides of the brain that makes cerebrospinal fluid that bathes the spinal cord and brain
• A CPC is a fluid filled cyst that forms inside the choroid plexus
• They do not cause problems in the developing fetal brain
• Seen in approximately 1% of all second trimester ultrasounds
• Size and number of CPCs seen do not change the risk interpretation

What problems could be associated with this finding?
• This is likely normal variation in development
• Some studies suggest there may be an increased risk of a chromosome abnormality such as trisomy 18 when this finding is seen
  o This is most concerning if there are other differences identified on ultrasound or if a patient is already at increased risk of a chromosome abnormality due to maternal age (>35 years) or abnormal screening tests
• In a low risk pregnancy, this finding is unlikely to significantly increase risks for a chromosome abnormality

How do I determine my patient’s risks?
• A finding of choroid plexus cyst(s) increases a woman’s risk for trisomy 18 approximately 7-fold
  o Example: If previous risk was 1:700, new risk following soft sign adjustment is 1:100
• See attached flow chart for risk adjustments

What if other findings were also noted on ultrasound?
• Please refer your patient to genetics or for follow up fetal assessment as necessary
• Follow-up ultrasound is not indicated for isolated choroid plexus cyst(s) (most disappear by the last 3 months of pregnancy)

Where can I get more information?
• You may contact the maternal serum screening coordinator at 204-787-2098

This information sheet is provided by: 
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