



Dear Health Professional,

Direct Diagnostics is excited and pleased to announce the introduction of the first Saliva Test, FAM (Family and Maternity Oral Pathogen Test), designed to reduce risk of pregnancy complications that may arise due to specific periodontal infections.

This saliva test is designed to diagnose specific periodontal pathogens that elevate inflammation and risk, during both conception and pregnancy, for low birthweight and/or premature labor. (J Nat Sci Biol Med. 2010 Jul-Dec; 1(1): 40-42. doi: 10.4103/0976-9668.71672)

As stated in the following reviews:

"Inflamed periodontal tissues produce significant amounts of proinflammatory cytokines, mainly interleukin 1-beta (IL-1 β), IL-6, prostaglandin E2, and tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α), which may have systemic effects on the host. Low birth weight, defined as birth weight less than 2,500 g, continues to be a significant public health issue in both developed and developing countries.

Research suggests that the bacteria that cause inflammation in the gums can actually get into the bloodstream and target the fetus, potentially leading to premature labor and low-birth-weight (PLBW) babies. One reasonable mechanism begins with deleterious effects of endotoxins released from Gram-negative bacteria responsible for periodontal disease.

Hence periodontal disease appears to be an independent risk factor for PLBW and there is a need to expand preventive measures for pregnant women in harmonization with the gynecological and dental professions."

"The effectiveness of periodontal treatment to prevent PTB is influenced by the diagnostic criteria of periodontitis, microbial community composition, severity of periodontitis, treatment strategy, treatment efficiency, and the period of treatment during pregnancy. Although intervention trials reported contradictory results, oral health maintenance is an important part of preventive care that is both effective and safe throughout pregnancy and should be supported before and during pregnancy."

(Front Immunol. 2017; 8: 139. Published online 2017 Feb 13. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2017.00139)

This test is designed to ...

- Help this "harmonization" effect between dental professionals and gynecological professionals to detect those oral pathogens that are shown to create the most risk for PLBW.
- Help the dental professional create a treatment plan that clears this potential risk.

We urge you to offer this important test to any of your patients who are looking to become pregnant, are currently pregnant, or who recently had a baby. Your patient is bringing this information to you because they fit one of those categories, and desire to take this test.

Please contact our clinical laboratory at 512-861-1510 or our website at directdiagnostics.com/fam for further information about this test, for additional scientific reviews, and to order test supplies.

Thank you for delivering this most important level of care to your patients by using saliva testing.

Thomas W. Nabors

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For you. For your child. For your family.

Oral bacteria make their way into the bloodstream and place you at risk.

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