

Frequently Asked Questions About Screening

- **What is genetic screening?** Genes are the blueprints of our bodies. Babies inherit genes from their mothers and fathers, and these do not change over time. Genetic screening uses a blood sample to look at a person's genes to determine his/her risk of developing certain diseases. We will be looking at your child's genes to determine his/her risk for developing type 1 (childhood) diabetes.
- **Is there any risk of doing the screening?** When we use a sample of your baby's cord blood, there is no risk of injury to your baby. When a heel stick is done, it may cause discomfort. When we share the screening results with you, you may become worried about your child's chance of getting type 1 diabetes. We are here to help you understand these results.
- **Are you interested in screening my child even though we have no family history of diabetes?** Yes, the majority of people who get type 1 diabetes do not have a family member with the disease. To understand the disease better, we are looking at children with and without a family member with diabetes.
- **Will you give me the results of my child's genetic screening?** Yes, you will receive your child's genetic screening results. If your child is not at a higher risk, we will send you a letter with these results. If your child is at a higher risk for diabetes, we will ask you and your child to join the second part of the study. We will contact you to discuss this part of the study in further detail at that point in time.
- **Will it cost anything to be in the study?** No, since our study is funded by the National Institutes of Health, we are able to provide all screening and testing for free.



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TEDDY, one of the most important diabetes studies today, is being done with six other well-known diabetes institutions around the world. Studies such as TEDDY will lead to an understanding of how to prevent and treat diabetes.

Thank you for your interest in the TEDDY Study,



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National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH



National Institute of
Child Health and Human
Development (NICHD)



TEDDY

The
Environmental
Determinants of
Diabetes in the
Young

...Discovering
the Causes of
Type 1 Diabetes
in Children

...Discovering the Causes of Type 1 Diabetes in Children

What is the TEDDY Study?

TEDDY is an international study to discover the causes of type 1 diabetes. First, TEDDY will screen thousands of children around the world, like yours, to determine if they are at increased risk for type 1 diabetes. The second part of the TEDDY study will help us learn about things in a child's life that may lead to diabetes in children that are at risk.

What is type 1 diabetes?

Type 1 diabetes is one of the most common and serious long-term diseases in children. It affects 1 out of every 300 children. It is a disease where the body's immune system attacks the cells that make insulin. Insulin helps sugar (glucose) get into your cells so it can be used as energy. Children with type 1 diabetes must take insulin shots and monitor their blood sugar levels several times a day to stay alive and healthy. Right now, there is no cure for type 1 diabetes.

Who can join TEDDY?

All newborns, under the age of 3 months with or without a family history of diabetes, who live in the Atlanta area.

What is involved in the screening?

The screening is very simple. When your baby is born, the hospital will take a small blood sample for routine testing. This is done for all new babies. We can use a small portion of this sample to do the screening. If we did not get a sample in the hospital, and your baby is less than 3 months old, we can still get a sample for screening. We will also ask you a few questions about your family for our study. You should get your baby's test results in 6-8 weeks.

Why should my family participate?

By doing this screening, you will learn if your child has a higher genetic risk of developing type 1 diabetes. Most of the new cases of type 1 diabetes occur in children who have no family history of the disease.

If your child is at a higher risk of getting type 1 diabetes, you and your baby can join the second part of the study. In this part of TEDDY, your family will learn about your child's risk of type 1 diabetes and the early signs of the disease. Finding diabetes early can prevent serious illness and complications.

Even if your child has a higher genetic risk, it does not mean that he/she will definitely get diabetes. Most children in TEDDY will never develop diabetes. Every child in the study helps us come closer to preventing and finding a cure for this disease. We will answer any of your questions and help to make visits as easy as possible for your family.

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