What is Cystic Fibrosis?

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) primarily affects the lungs and digestive system because of a malfunction in the exocrine system that's responsible for producing saliva, sweat, tears and mucus.

People with Cystic Fibrosis develop an abnormal amount of excessively thick mucus within the lungs, airways and the digestive system. This causes impairment of the digestive functions of the pancreas and traps bacteria in the lungs resulting in recurrent infections.

Despite modern treatment there is currently no cure. From birth, a person with Cystic Fibrosis undergoes constant medical treatments and physiotherapy. Management of Cystic Fibrosis is lifelong and ongoing.

How much does this screen cost?

The test is not covered by Medicare or your private health fund, however in some cases of Cystic Fibrosis were there are symptoms of family history, you may be eligible for a Medicare rebate. Visit our website virtusgenetics.com.au for more information.

Virtus Genetics Counselling Service

Virtus Genetics offers a comprehensive genetic counselling service that is available to our referring doctors and their patients.

We strongly recommend that couples with an increased chance of having an affected child seek expert genetic counselling regarding the options available to them.

For further information on our Genetic Counselling phone our laboratory on 1800 409 250

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists recommend all pregnant women, or anyone planning pregnancy, be provided with information and have access to screening for chromosomal and genetic conditions.

VirtusGenetics

General Enquiries: 1800 837 284

www.virtusgenetics.com.au

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Cystic Fibrosis

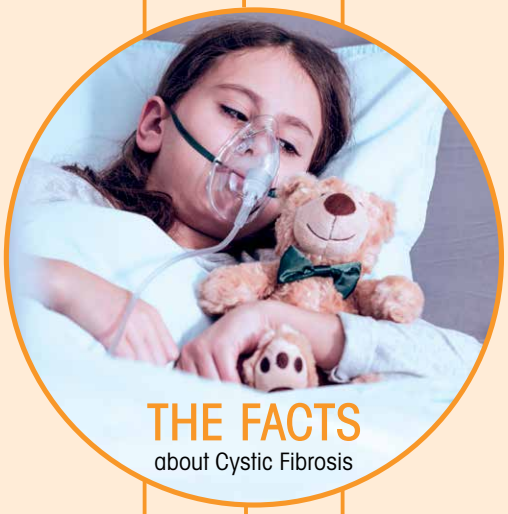
Are you at risk of having a baby with a serious genetic condition?

VirtusGenetics

Most Cystic Fibrosis carriers are unaware they carry the disorder. They are completely healthy adults with no known family history of Cystic Fibrosis

Every 4 days an Australian child is born with Cystic Fibrosis

Cystic Fibrosis is the most common life threatening condition affecting Australian newborns



THE FACTS
about Cystic Fibrosis

A simple blood test can determine if you are a Cystic Fibrosis carrier

1 in 25 Caucasian Australians are carriers of a Cystic Fibrosis gene variant

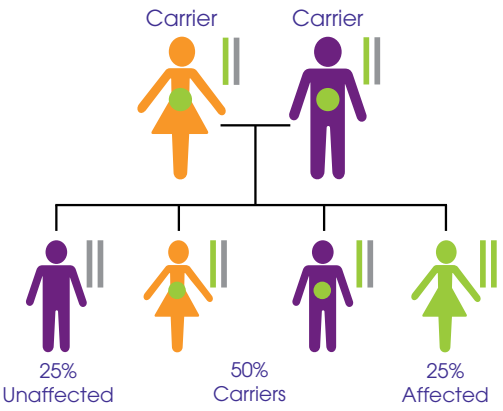
If both parents are Cystic Fibrosis carriers the chance of having a child with Cystic Fibrosis are 1 in 4

Who gets Cystic Fibrosis?

Cystic Fibrosis is autosomal recessive meaning that it occurs equally in males and females. The Cystic Fibrosis gene must be inherited from both parents and it can skip generations.

When two Cystic Fibrosis Carriers have a child there is a:

- 1 in 4 chance their child will be affected by Cystic Fibrosis
- 1 in 2 chance their child will be a carrier of the gene variant responsible for Cystic Fibrosis
- 1 in 4 chance the child will not inherit any gene variation and therefore not be affected by Cystic Fibrosis or at risk of passing a Cystic Fibrosis gene variant on to future generations.



What is Carrier Screening?

Carrier screening is a way to see whether you carry the Cystic Fibrosis Gene mutation. The screen provides you with an accurate assessment of your chances of having a baby with Cystic Fibrosis.

There are >2,000 known pathogenic variants in the Cystic Fibrosis gene. Whilst there are a range of providers offering Cystic Fibrosis screening, the Virtus Genetics comprehensive test will detect these pathogenic variants.

When should I be screened?

The ideal time for screening is prior to becoming pregnant. It allows both you and your partner time to consider the results and make informed choices about future plans.

Individual vs Couples screening

Individual Screening

Testing the women first is recommended. If the patient is tested individually and found to be a carrier for Cystic Fibrosis, it is necessary to test the partner to determine the risk to their child.

Couples Screening

An advantage of screening as a couple is that if a positive screen occurs from individual testing, it does alleviate the anxiety while waiting for a second result.

I want to be screened – what do I do now?

Once you've made the decision to be screened your doctor will complete the Virtus Genetics Pathology request form and arrange a simple blood test. It takes approximately 10-15 days for your test to be processed. Your results are sent back to your referring doctor.

My partner and I are carriers – What happens now?

It is important to know you have options. Your doctor will discuss the results with you, guide you through various options and offer genetic counselling. Knowing your carrier status before or early in you pregnancy gives you time to learn about the disorder and make informed decisions about your reproductive options and prenatal care.