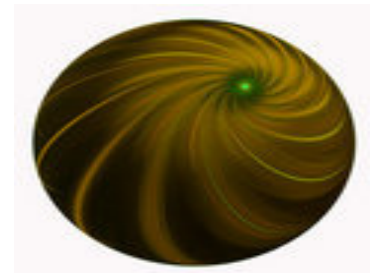
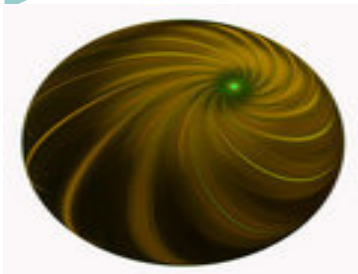


ANTENATAL SCREENING FOR FETAL ABNORMALITIES IN HUNGARY

János Szabó

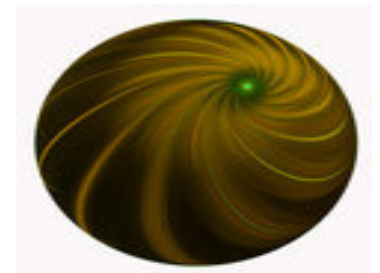
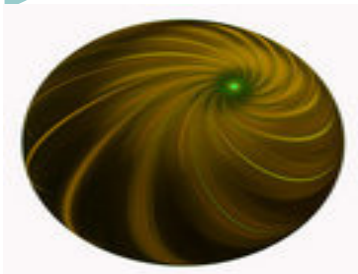
*Department of Medical Genetics, Medical
Faculty, University of Szeged, Hungary*



**1st Central & Eastern European Summit on Preconception
Health & Prevention of Birth Defects, Budapest, 29.08,2008**

ANTENATAL SCREENING FOR FETAL ABNORMALITIES IN HUNGARY

- Screening for Down syndrome
- Indications for prenatal invasive diagnosis
- Screening for structural anomalies by US
- Termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly



1st Central & Eastern European Summit on Preconception Health & Prevention of Birth Defects, Budapest, 29.08,2008



ISSUES

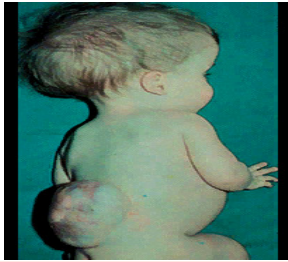
- **PREVALENCE**
- **Screening strategies**
- **STRUCTURAL DEFECTS**
- **CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES**
- **MATERNAL AGE!!**
- **Too many choices!**
- **FUTURE TASKS**

POPULATION FREQUENCY OF DISORDERS WITH GENETIC BACKGROUND

- **At birth: 4% (5-6%!)**
- **At 1 year of age: 5 %**
- **At 25 years of age: ~8%**
 - **monogenic**
- **At 60 years of age: >90%**
 - **Polygenic (complex)**



ANNUAL RATE OF CONGENITAL ANOMALIES IN THE EARTH (WHO)



<u>Total no. of birth in the world:</u>	<u>120 000 000</u>
1. Congenit. struct. anomalies:	2 890 000
2. Chromosomal anomalies:	800 000
3. Mendelian disorders:	700 000
4. Haemoglobinopathies:	200 000

Total:	4 590 000



CONGENITAL AND GENETIC DISORDERS

- **Primary prevention**

folates  NTD, CHD, rubella vaccination

- ***Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis***

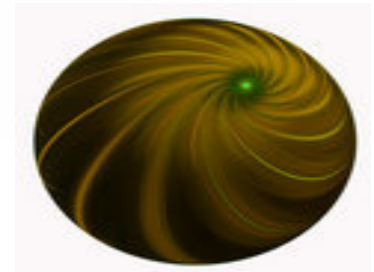
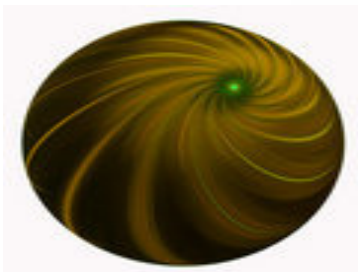
- **Secondary prevention**

**Prenatal screening and
Prenatal diagnostics**

Prenatal counselling

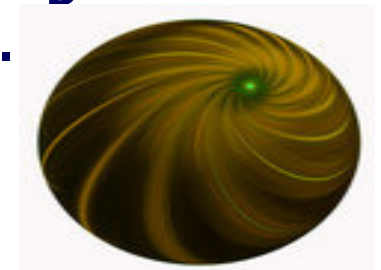
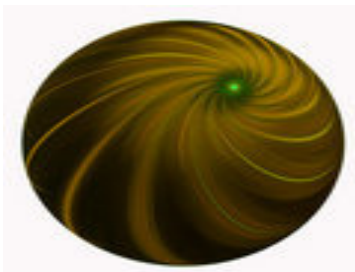
- **Aim:  Prenatal therapy!!!**

Tertiary prenatal centers with cytogenetic labs in Hungary



ANTENATAL SCREENING FOR FETAL ABNORMALITIES IN HUNGARY

- Hungary was among the first countries applying **amniocentesis** in the late 70th and
- **chorionic villus** sampling in the early 1980th and prenatal diagnosis of fetal chromosomal abnormalities started.
- **weak governmental** support and the motor of the development was mainly
- **individual ambition/efforts** and enthusiasm characterizing outstanding activity of experts (ob/gyn, pediater).



Screening for Structural Anomalies by Ultrasound





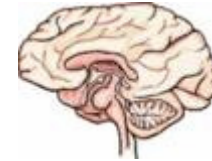
Screening for Congenital Heart Defects

- **1249 CHD out of 100 000 birth in 2005 (1,25%!)**
- *Prenatal detection rate: 2,49%*
- **Use of NT! approx: ~35-40%**

Works only in experienced hands.



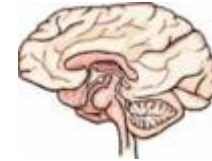
Screening for Neural Tube Defects



- **Non-invasive screening for *fetal structural abnormalities* commenced in the early eighties by**
- **ultrasound and**
- **maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein (MS-AFP) determination.**



Screening for Neural Tube Defects (2004)



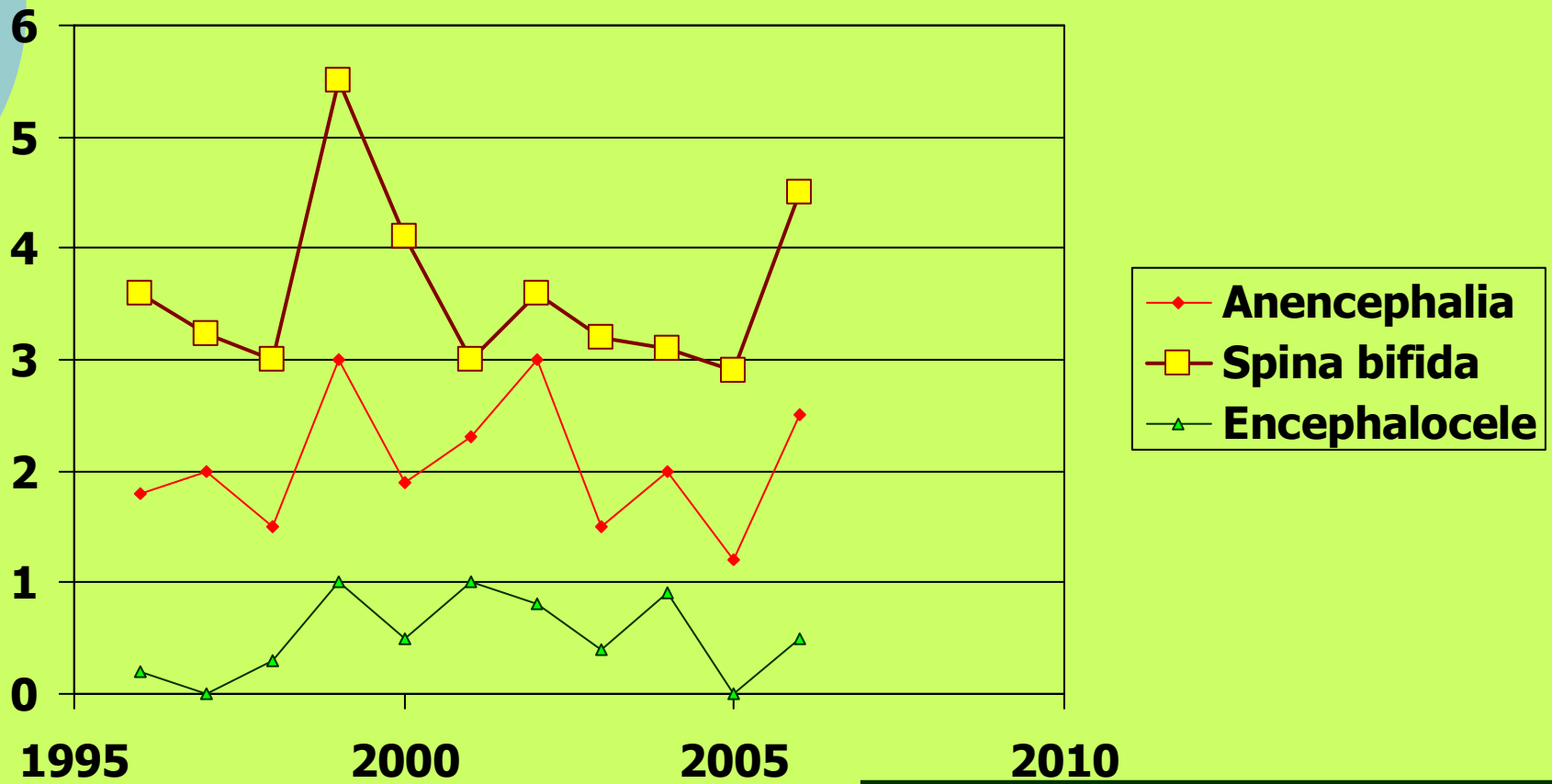
- **Anencephaly: 10/12 (83,3%)**
- **Spina bifida: 16/30 (53,3%)**
- **Encephalocele: 0/1**
- **Total No NTD: 26/43 (60,0%!)**
- **Prenatal detection rate: 60 %**
- **Use of MS-AFP**

Works only in experienced hands.



Prevalence of Neural Tube Defects in Hungary (1996-2006)

‰



HCAR(VRONY) (2008)

Rate of prenatally detected neural tube defects (1996-2006)



HCAR(VRONY) (2008)



Most efficient prenatal diagnostics

(Hungarian Congenital Abnormality Registry data, 2005)

- **Anencephaly: 92,31%**

24 prenatal.dg. out of 26 total

- **Other chromo abnorm.: 77,78%**

35 prenatal.dg. out of 45 total

- **Branchial arch abnorm: 68,75%**

22 prenatal.dg. out of 32 total

- **Spina bifida: 58,33%**

- 28 prenatal.dg. out of 48 total

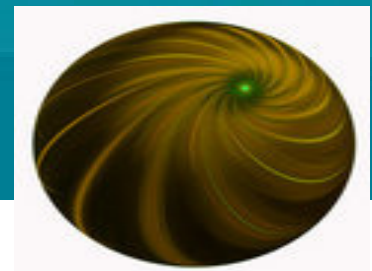


Less efficient prenatal diagnostics

(Hungarian Congenital Abnormality Registry data, 2005)

- **Trisomy 21 65/152: 42,8%**
- **Polycystic kidney (7/35): 20%**
- **Urogenital obstr:30/317: 9,4%**
- **Limb reduction a.: 2/30: 6,7%**

SCREENING OF CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES



SCREENING OF CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

MATERNAL AGE!!!

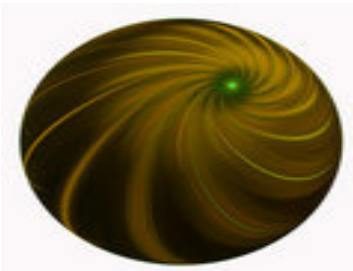
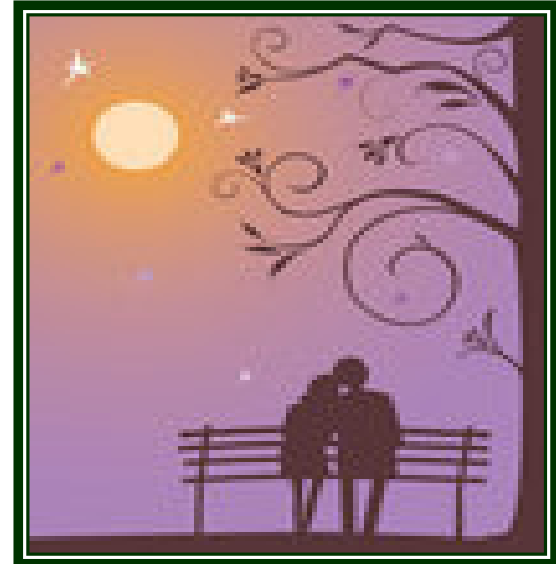
ULTRASOUND markers:

- First-trimester
- Second trimester

MATERNAL BIOCHEMISTRY

- First-trimester: PAPP-a, free β -hCG
- Second trimester: triple, quad-test

RISK ASSESSMENT based genetic counseling!!!



SCREENING OF CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

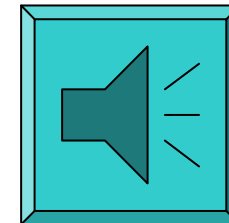
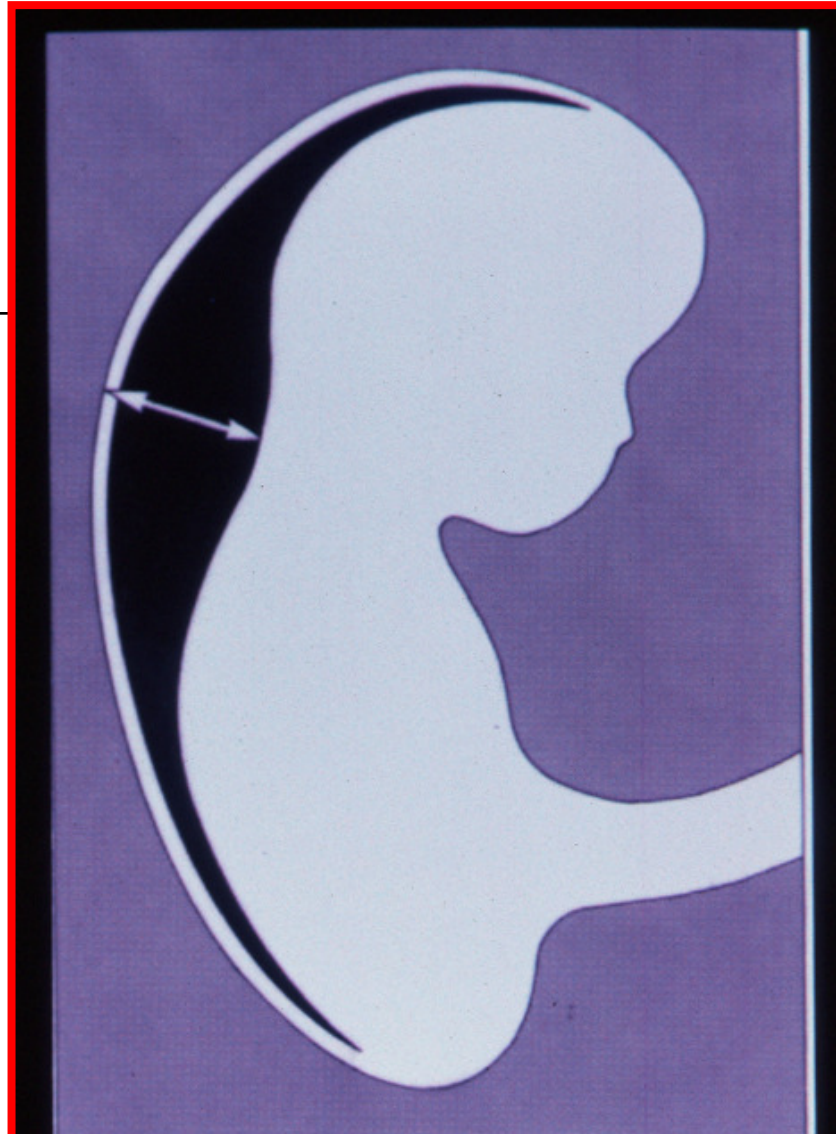
MATERNAL AGE
OF $\geq 35!!!$

- Still present, and **strong directive** to invasive diagnostics from ob/gyn parties!
- Irrespective of the level of risk obtained from screening studies.

SCREENING OF FETAL CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

**FIRST-TRIMESTER: NT+NB
(FROM 1990,2006)**





**The maximum thickness
of NT
should be measured !**

Absent Nasal Bone in Trisomy 21 and 18



Normal

469

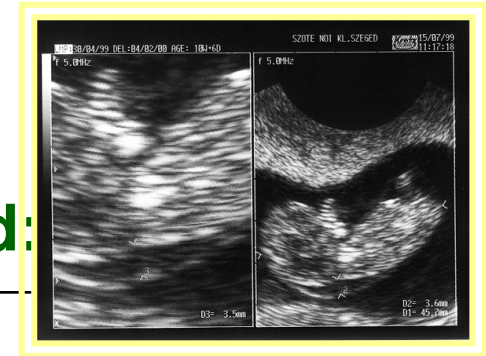
3 (0.6%)

Trisomy 21

38

29 (6.3%)

Aim of Prenatal Screening and Diagnosis Comes True with Ultrasound:

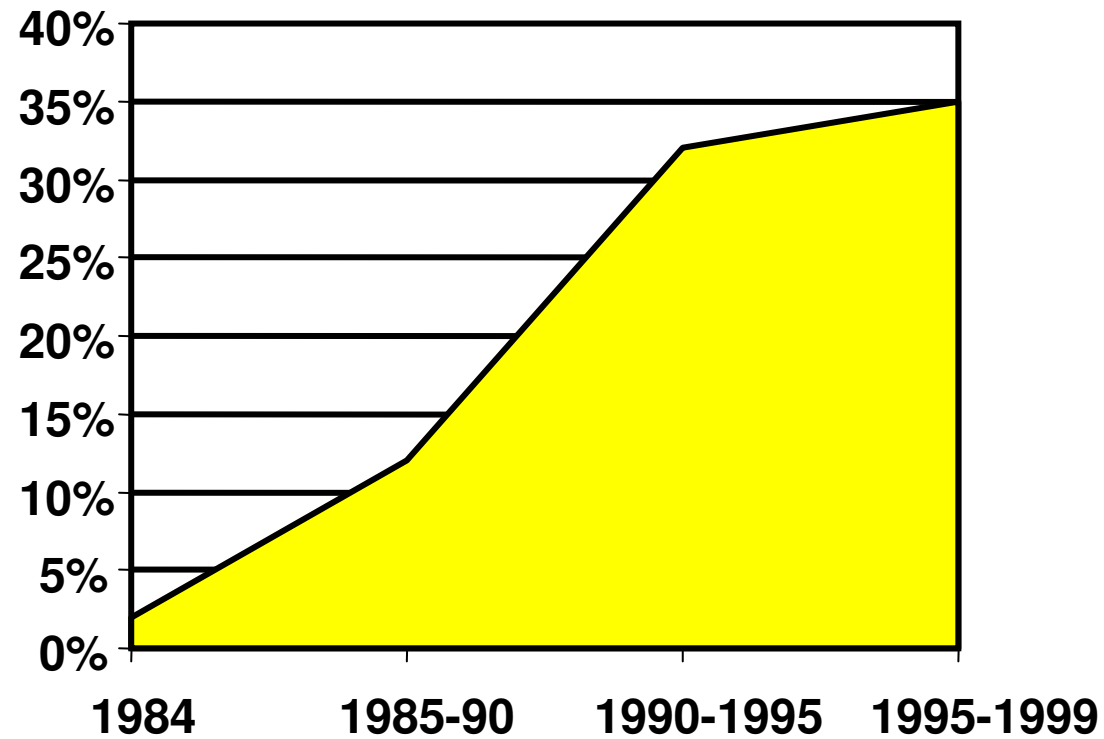


Holistic approach

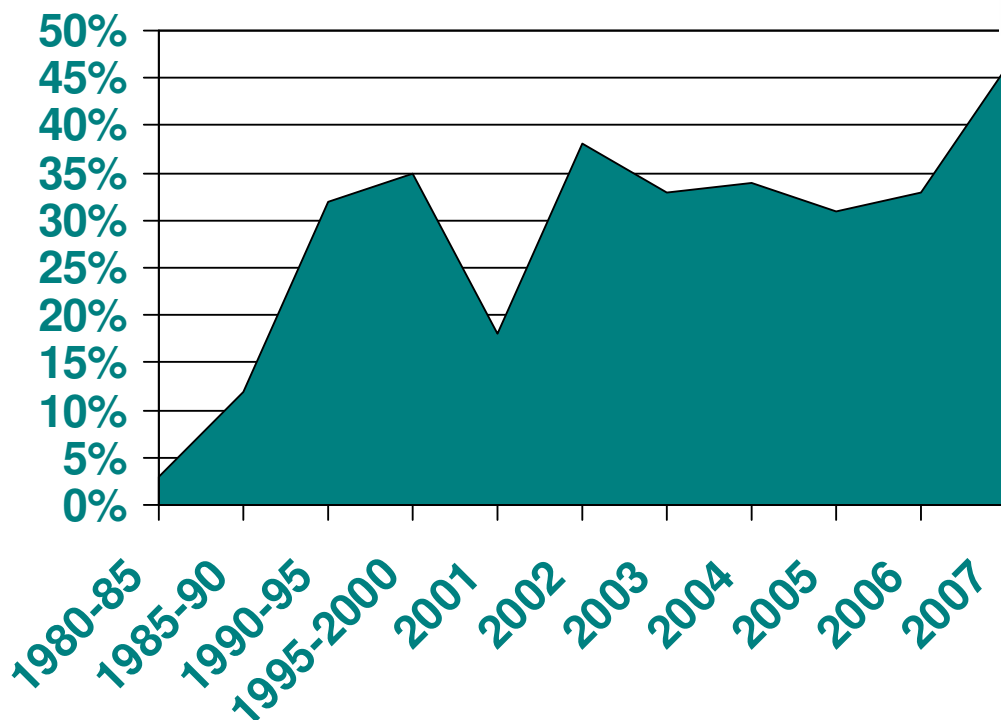
TO STOP

- not only **RECURRENCE**, but
- firsts **OCCURRENCE!**

EFFECT OF NT-SCREENING ON PRENATALLY DETECTED RATE OF TRISOMY 21 (1984-1999)

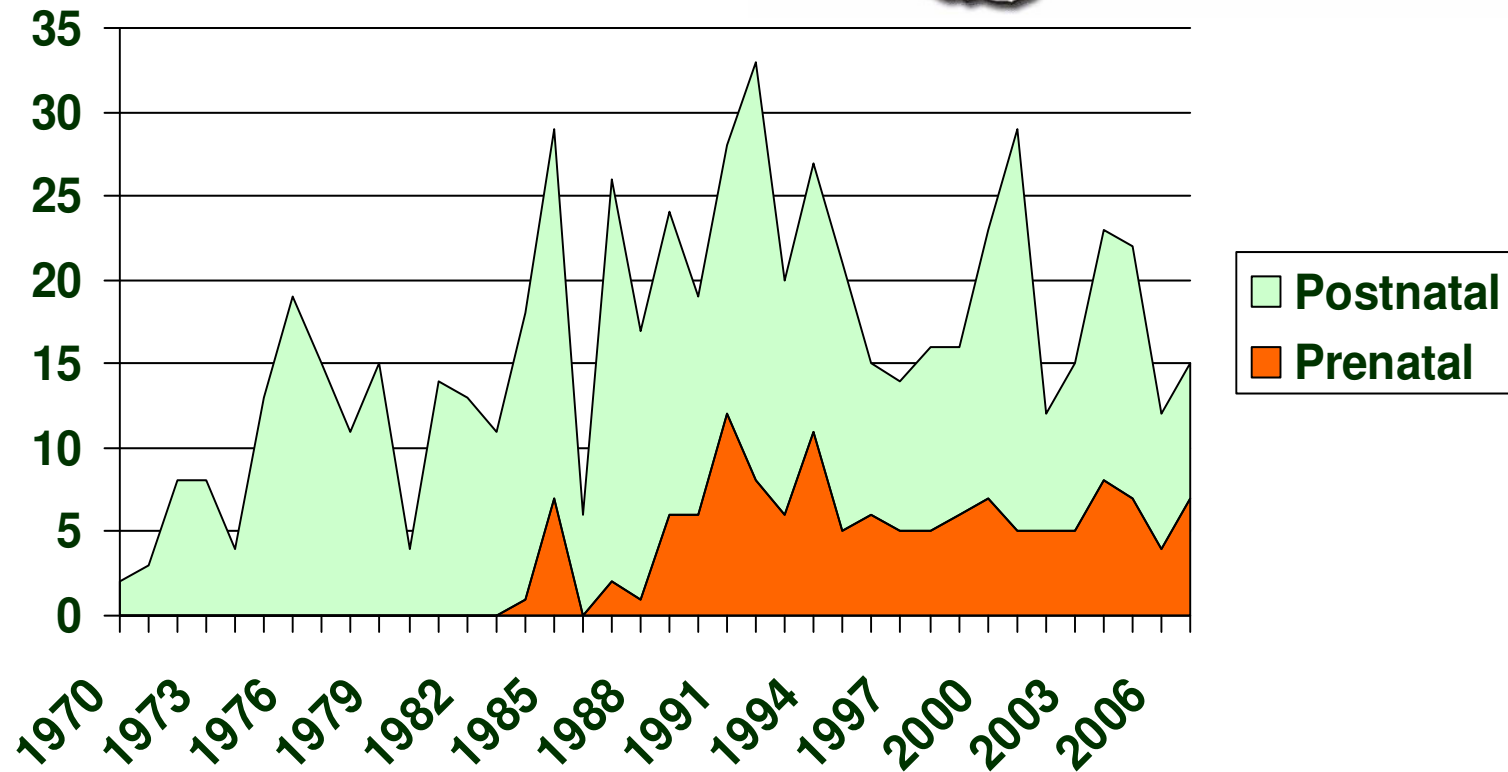


Rate of Prenatally Diagnosed trisomy 21 cases between 1984-2007 in South Hungary (US screening)

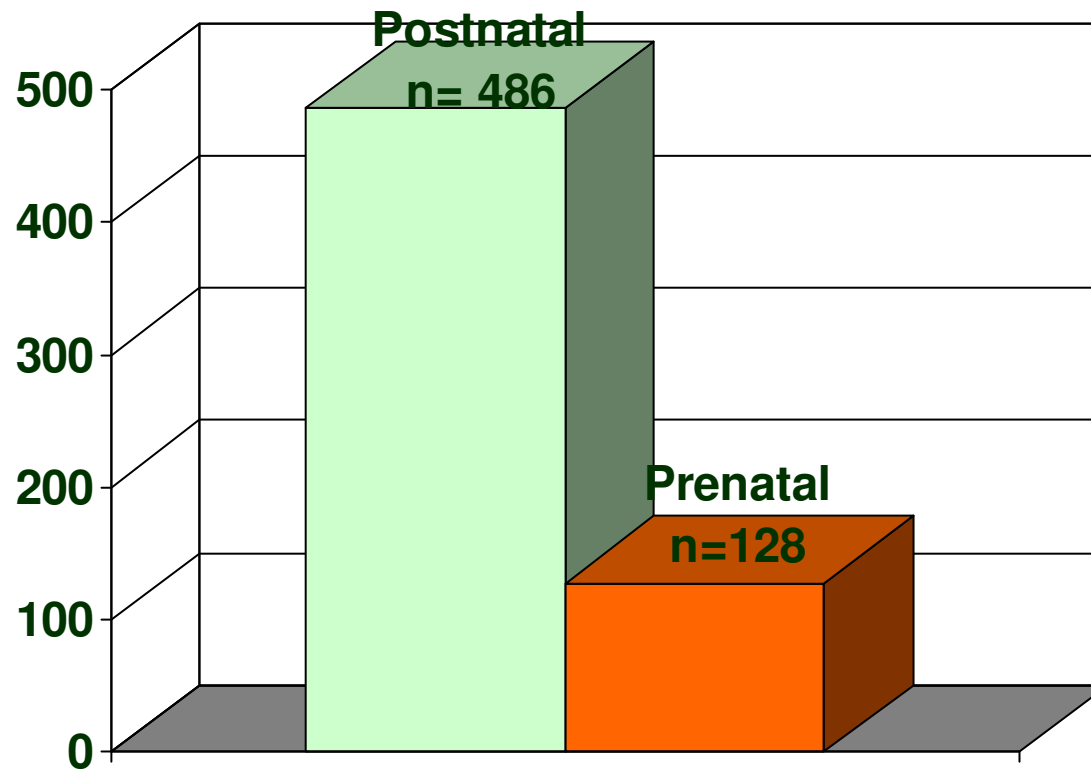


■ Fetuses with trisomy 21

Prevalence of trisomy 21 in South-Hungary (1970-2007)



Prevalence of trisomy 21 in South-Hungary (1970-2007)





Policy offer of Hungarian Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology for screening of fetal abnormalities

- **1st US: 12 weeks**
- **2nd US: 18-20 weeks**
- **3rd US: 28 weeks**
- **Works only in experienced hands. A, B, C level ultrasound examination**



Ultrasound screening for trisomies

Ultrasound markers in 1st trimester

- nuchal translucency ✓.
- nasal bone ✓?
- Frontomaxillary facial angle -
- Ductus venosus flow -
- Tricuspid regurgitation -

Ultrasound markers in 2nd trimester

- Nuchal pad ✓ -
- Heart defects ✓ -
- Nasal bone length ✓ -
- Dilatation of the lateral ventricle -
- Gastrointestinal tract ✓
- Urogenital tract. et cet. ✓

First-trimester maternal serum markers (at 10-12 week)

1. Free β -HCG \uparrow

2. PAPP-A \downarrow (Pregnancy associated plasma protein-A)

Second-trimester screening for fetal aneuploidies

Biochemistry (16th week)

1. Free β -HCG and
2. AFP (alfa-fetoprotein)
3. Estriol
4. Inhibin-A

Quad test



MS SERUM ALPHA-FETOPROTEIN (at 16th week)

Elevated MS-AFP level:

1. NTD
2. VENTRAL WALL DEFECTS
3. MULTIPLES
4. I.U. DEATH, MISSED ABORTION
5. NEPHROSIS syndrome
6. Other

LOW MS-AFP level:

1. MISSED ABORTION
2. ANEUPLOIDIES



Screening approaches, TOO MANY CHOICES!

- Maternal age
- Combined in 1st trimester
- Contingency
- Combined in 2nd trimester
- Fully integrated test
- Sequential



Screening for fetal abnormalities

- There is a basic and fundamental principle of screening:
- a screening test may be followed by a diagnostic test,
- not another screening test!



Screening should not confuse us!

Avoid!

- 1. Confusion: patient, obstetrician, counsellor**
- 2. Lack of confidence leading anger on the part of the patient.**
- 3. “Which screening test do I believe?”**



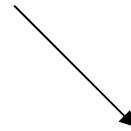
INVASIVE TESTS

Carry 1% risk of abortion!

Amniocentesis

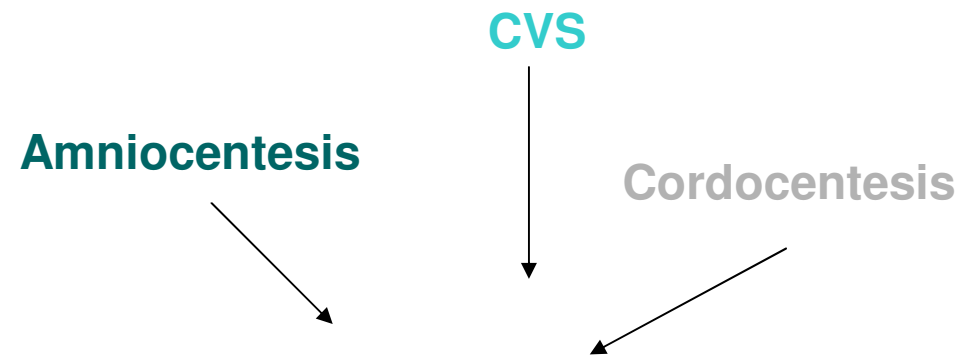
CVS

Cordocentesis





Capacity of cytogenetic labs (increased false positive rate!).





DISTINGUISH between screening and diagnosis of Down's syndrome!

- **CVS, amnio-, or cordocentesis**
- *1% fetal loss indicates that it can be recommended only to pregnant population with high genetic risk.*
- Consequently: *the development of screening methods with high detection rate and with low false positive and negative rate is mandatory →***FOR EACH PATIENTS**



DISTINGUISH between screening and diagnosis of Down's syndrome.

Diagnosis: Yes or no answer
at present by
cytogenetic-processing fetal cells
obtained by
CVS, amnio-, or cordocentesis
~1% fetal loss



FETAL SAFETY!

Screening: NO HARM to the outcome of pregnancy

Fals positive rate: the % a pregnant population above the cut off

More sampling we perform, the more procedure related fetal loss will OCCUR, in other words:

- **Increasing the no. of sampling increase the**
- **iatrogenic pregnancy loss rate**
- **FETAL SAFETY!**



Focus on safety!!

- We think along with others that prenatal **screening for Down syndrome should focus not only on cost-effectiveness but on detection rate and fetal safety, which depends on reliability of a particular screening approach.**



There are many tasks ahead us

- 1. selection and introduction of the most sensitive novel techniques,
- 2. continuous theoretical and
- 3. practical training and education,
- 4. refreshing guidelines by the clinical genetic board,
- 5. quality control.
- 6. Primary prevention



**VIIth DOWN SYNDROME SYMPOSIUM
MAY 16-17, SZEGED, 2008.MAY**

- **DOWN SYNDROME:COMPLEX!!!**
 - Not only an issue „to screen it out“
 - Parental party
- **Ethics**
 - *Guidelines for Gen.Couns.
INFORMED AND INTERPRET!
 - *Mutual understanding !!

MAY I TEACH YOU?

