

TRAIT Result:

Blood Spot Screen Result Notification



FAV - Hemoglobin Variant Trait

What was found on the newborn screen?

The newborn screen that was collected at birth found that your baby has fetal hemoglobin (F), adult hemoglobin (A), and abnormal hemoglobin (V).

What does this mean?

This means your baby likely has hemoglobin variant trait (AV). The fetal hemoglobin goes away as babies get older.

What is hemoglobin variant trait?

Hemoglobin variant trait is not a disease and can never become a disease. Hemoglobin variant trait does not cause health problems. You may have hemoglobin variant trait and not know it. People with hemoglobin variant trait will always have it; you cannot grow out of it.

Hemoglobin variant trait is common and can occur in any race or ethnicity. You may have heard of sickle cell trait before. While not exactly the same, sickle cell trait and hemoglobin variant trait are similar. Hemoglobin variant trait is an inherited condition that affects the hemoglobin in your red blood cells. Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells. The job of hemoglobin is to carry oxygen throughout the body. Red blood cells with normal hemoglobin (A) are flexible and doughnut shaped. Red blood cells with abnormal hemoglobin can have their function or shape changed.

More information about trait can be found on our website: www.health.state.mn.us/people/newbornscreening/families/trait.html.

How do you know if your baby actually has hemoglobin variant trait?

A simple blood test called a hemoglobin electrophoresis cascade can tell if your baby has hemoglobin variant trait. This test will likely be performed when your baby is between nine and twelve months of age. Sometimes the hemoglobin variant is gone on clinical testing. Talk with your baby's doctor about plans for testing and any questions you have about it.

Why is it important to know?

Depending on the results of the clinical testing, you, your baby, and your partner may be sent to talk with a hematologist (blood expert). The hematologist will talk with you about whether or not the hemoglobin variant could cause problems for any family members or future family members.



Resources

Newborn Screening Genetic Counselors
(651) 201-3548
health.newbornscreening@state.mn.us

Sickle Cell Foundation of Minnesota
www.sicklecellmn.org

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc
www.sicklecelldisease.org