CHORIONIC VILLUS SAMPLING (CVS) CONSENT

1. I understand that chorionic villus sampling, CVS, is a relatively new procedure to detect fetal chromosomal disorders and sometimes other specific disorders of the fetus. Not all birth defects can be detected by CVS or ultrasonography.

2. I understand CVS cannot detect neural tube defects. A blood test will be offered at 15-18 weeks gestation to screen for neural tube defects.

3. I understand that before the CVS is performed I will have an ultrasound examination to locate the placenta and fetus. Ultrasound may also detect twins, incorrect dating of the pregnancy and some other conditions.

4. I understand that CVS can be done by two methods. Both are performed with ultrasound guidance. The procedure type is determined by ultrasound findings. Transcervical CVS involves inserting a thin plastic catheter through the woman’s cervix into the uterus to the placenta. A sample of chorionic villi is suctioned through the catheter with a syringe. Transabdominal CVS involves inserting a needle through the woman’s abdomen into the uterus to the placenta. A sample of chorionic villi is suctioned through the needle with a syringe. There may be discomfort when the catheter or needle is inserted.

5. I understand that there is a well-established alternate method of prenatal diagnosis called amniocentesis. This procedure consists of inserting a needle through the woman’s abdomen into the uterus to the fluid which surrounds the fetus. A small amount of fluid is removed and can be tested for chromosomal disorders, neural tube defects and sometimes other specific disorders of the fetus. The risk of miscarriage due to the amniocentesis procedure is less than 1 in 200.

6. I understand that the risk of miscarriage due to the CVS procedure is slightly more than 1 in 100.

7. I understand that complications of CVS can include infection, cramping, vaginal bleeding or spotting, leakage of amniotic fluid and/or soreness where the needle was inserted.

8. I understand that genetic analysis of the CVS may not be successful and a repeat procedure may be required if insufficient tissue is obtained or fetal cells do not grow.

9. I understand that CVS can identify over 99% of all chromosomal disorders. However, there is a small chance that the CVS results may not show the actual genetic make-up of the fetus. Other procedures are available if CVS results are unclear.

10. I understand that CVS is not routinely done if twins are seen. In the case of undetected twins the results may pertain to only one of the pair.

11. I understand that there is a small chance of (a) injury to the fetus and (b) Rh sensitization of an Rh negative woman as a result of the procedure.

12. I understand that all abnormal findings will be explained to me. Treatment alternatives will be discussed. The decision to continue or terminate the pregnancy is entirely mine.

13. I understand that my participation in this procedure is entirely voluntary. I can refuse this procedure and still receive medical care.

I have read or have had read to me the above information and I understand it. I have had an opportunity to discuss it, including the purpose and possible risks of CVS, with my doctor, the doctor performing the procedure, or their professional associates.

I have received all the information I want. All my questions have been answered.

☐ YES, I REQUEST that Dr. _______________________ perform CVS. I understand and accept the consequences of this decision.

Signed _______________________ Date ________________
Witnessed by _______________________ Date ________________

Permission to give results to ________________________________:

Signed _______________________ Date ________________

☐ NO, I REFUSE to have CVS or alternative diagnostic tests. I understand and accept the consequences of this decision.

Signed _______________________ Date ________________
Witnessed by _______________________ Date ________________

The California Department of Health Services may receive a confidential report of all tests performed by state-approved prenatal diagnostic centers. This information will be used to ensure that all prenatal diagnostic centers meet state standards for services and to improve the detection, prevention and treatment of birth defects.