



UK NSC FMAIT recommendation

Following a review of the evidence against strict criteria, the UK NSC does not currently recommend introducing a national screening programme for fetomaternal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (FMAIT).

FMAIT is a rare genetically inherited condition that prevents a newborn baby's blood clotting effectively.

A baby inherits blood cells from both the mother and father. In a small number of pregnancies, the mother's body starts attacking the unborn baby's platelets (blood cells that help the blood to clot). This is because the mother's body detects platelets which are 'foreign' to her'. A drop in the number of platelets can cause serious risk of death or permanent brain damage and long-term disability.

It has been suggested that offering screening would help identify pregnant women who are at risk of developing the condition. This would help them manage their pregnancy and birth to avoid the possible death of the baby.

Key findings supporting the UK NSC recommendation

Population screening for FMAIT is not recommended because:

- FMAIT does not harm all babies and there is no test which can tell which babies will be harmed
- there is no known medical treatment which can prevent FMAIT
- there is no clear evidence to suggest that screening and subsequent treatment would be better than treating women and babies when problems first arise

The UK NSC regularly reviews its recommendations on screening for different conditions in the light of new research evidence becoming available.

To find out more about the UK NSC's FMAIT recommendation, please visit:

legacyscreening.phe.org.uk/thrombocytopenia

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises ministers and the NHS in the 4 UK countries about all aspects of screening and supports implementation of screening programmes.

Find out more about the UK National Screening Committee at www.gov.uk/uknsc. The UK NSC evidence review process is described at www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-nsc-evidence-review-process and a list of all UK NSC recommendations can be found at legacyscreening.nhs.uk/recommendations

The UK NSC secretariat is hosted by Public Health England (www.gov.uk/phe).