



## **Novel DNA Based Antenatal Test for STDs and Group B Strep.**

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San Diego based MultiGEN Diagnostics Inc. has launched a novel DNA based test panel to detect all six of the common genital infections that can occur in pregnancy. The **Antenatal Panel** is the only commercially available test that simultaneously detects Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Trichomonas ('Tric'), Herpes1 & 2, and Group B streptococcus (GBS) on a single swab. It represents the company's second MultiGEN Test Panel in molecular diagnostics. "This test provides the physician with the most accurate results possible within 8 hours, and at a price 2-3 times less than presently charged", says Dr. T. V. Moorthy Executive Chairman and founder.

Official US statistics show that STDs in pregnancy are very common, with the annual incidence of Herpes 2 at 880,000 cases, Chlamydia at 100,000, Trichomonas ('Tric') at 124,000, and Gonorrhea at 13,000. These are potentially serious infections for both mother and baby, and therefore the CDC recommends that women should be tested for these organisms during pregnancy. As there are more than 4.2 million childbirths annually in USA, this means that STDs are a silent threat in more than one in four pregnancies (25%). Group B Strep colonization of the vagina in pregnancy is about as common as STDs (10-40% of all pregnancies).

Presently these organisms are tested by DNA/PCR/probe, culture, ELISA or microscopy. Only MultiGEN technology uses the 'Gold Standard' method of DNA sequencing to produce results, and simultaneous testing for all the organisms enables a significant reduction in cost.

Dr. Roger Hodkinson, Director of Clinical Affairs, comments "The majority of these infections have absolutely no symptoms, and the mother is totally unaware of having any problem. But, if they are left untreated, they can produce serious complications in the mother including fatal septicemia, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and infertility. The newborn baby is also at risk for serious infections of the brain (herpes encephalitis), eye (gonococcal conjunctivitis), lungs (chlamydia pneumonitis), and blood stream (fatal GBS septicemia)".

"I believe that the Company's approach to multi-target DNA sequencing will become the new benchmark in molecular diagnostics", says Dr. Linda Wasserman, Laboratory Medical Director.

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