

# Tri-Functional Protein (TFP) Deficiency

(Sounds like TRY-FUNK-SHUN-AL PRO-TEEN DE-FISH-IN-SEA)



## What is newborn blood spot screening?

This is a blood test, from a heel poke, that is done a day or 2 after babies are born to test for treatable conditions including tri-functional protein (TFP) deficiency that you, your doctor, or midwife can't see by just looking at your baby. This screening test is different from those done during pregnancy.



## What does it mean if my baby needs more tests for TFP deficiency?

A baby needs to have more testing for TFP deficiency when their screening test result is abnormal or positive. This doesn't mean your baby has TFP deficiency. It means your baby has a higher chance of having the condition and will need more tests to find out if they have TFP deficiency or not.

It's normal to feel worried if your baby needs more testing. Your specialists and other healthcare providers are there to support you. They'll explain what will happen and answer your questions.

## What is TFP deficiency?

TFP deficiency is a metabolic condition that affects how your body uses fat from the food you eat to make energy. This includes breastmilk and regular formula. Your body breaks down fat into smaller parts called fatty acids. With a deficiency, or not enough TFP, your body can't use long-sized fatty acids to make energy and control sugar. This can cause serious health problems.

## What causes TFP deficiency?

TFP deficiency is genetic. This means babies with TFP deficiency are born with a gene from both parents, which has a change in it. This change stops the gene from working properly. TFP deficiency isn't caused by anything that happened during pregnancy.

There may be no signs of TFP deficiency at birth. It's important to remember that this condition can't be seen by looking at your baby.



## What can I expect with more testing?

Everything that will happen with more testing will be explained to you. Your baby may need to have their blood and urine tested to check for TFP deficiency.

This testing may be done at a clinic in Edmonton or Calgary that specializes in TFP deficiency.

## What if more testing shows my baby has TFP deficiency?

If testing shows that your baby has TFP deficiency a specialized healthcare team will work with you to make a care plan for your baby. You and your baby will get the best care and support possible.

## How is TFP deficiency treated?

Babies with TFP deficiency usually go on a low-fat diet and drink a special formula. Babies need to be fed often. They may also need special medicine. The specialized healthcare team will give you detailed instructions about how to manage your baby's health.



