Sláinte Leanaí Éireann
Children's Health Ireland

mychild.ie

National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme

Information for parents – false positive screening result for SMA

Your baby's heel prick test showed that they were at high risk of having a condition called spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

Because of this, your baby had further tests to find out whether they have SMA.

What did the test results show?

The test results were normal and showed that your baby **does not** have SMA.

This is good news.

Why did the screening test show my baby was 'at risk of SMA' when they do not have it?

This was a false positive screening result. This can happen when the screening test suggests that your baby is at increased risk of a condition, but further testing shows that they **do not** have the condition.

False positives happen in all screening programmes. They happen because screening tests are not perfect.

That is why all babies who have a positive screening test need to have further tests to find out whether they have the condition.

Your baby had a false positive screening result. Further testing has shown that they do not have SMA. For more information on false positives see https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/heel-prick-screening/results/

What happens next?

Your baby does not need any further tests.

As with any healthy child, you should seek advice from your GP or public health nurse if:

- your baby becomes unwell, or
- you have any concerns about your baby's development.

For all babies, we recommend you visit the HSE's mychild.ie for advice on caring for your child as they grow.