

THYROID SCREENING

The potential problems caused by an underactive thyroid during pregnancy are serious enough to have spurred international debate about automatic screening for low thyroid function in all women of childbearing age.

Thyroid hormones are critical for brain development in unborn babies. Children born with congenital hypothyroidism, which is low thyroid function caused by the mother's own thyroid deficiency, can have severe brain abnormalities if the condition isn't recognised and treated promptly. That's why all newborn babies in private hospitals in South Africa are tested for congenital hypothyroidism.