

Different Markers for Different Diseases (Obstetrics)

Disease / Condition	Marker / Test
Spina bifida / Neural tube defect	Amniotic fluid AFP ↑, Acetylcholinesterase positive
Urinary tract infection	Urine nitrites ± leukocyte esterase
Anencephaly	Maternal serum AFP ↑↑, β-hCG ↓, Inhibin A ↓
Thalassemia	FBC: microcytic anemia, Hb electrophoresis
Gestational diabetes mellitus	OGTT (gold standard)
Asymptomatic bacteriuria	MSU culture ≥10 ⁵ CFU/mL
Iron deficiency anemia	Serum ferritin ↓
Preterm labour	Short cervical length ± fetal fibronectin
Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome)	NT ↑, β-hCG ↑, PAPP-A ↓

Key Exam Tip: Always match the marker with the most specific disease association.