Eligible patients

*n* = 246 women with low-risk pregnancy and anaemia

Follow-up losses *n* = 43
- follow-up dropout *n* = 35
- intolerance to ferrous sulfate *n* = 02
- developing high-risk pregnancy *n* = 06

Excluded patients *n* = 35
- allergy or intolerance to ferrous sulfate *n* = 10
- other causes of anaemia *n* = 06
- infectious diseases *n* = 13
- tobacco, alcohol or other drugs addiction *n* = 06

Index Tests

Haemoglobin

* n = 144

Abnormal result *n* = 70
- Non therapeutic test *n* = 02
- Therapeutic test *n* = 68
  - IDA present *n* = 20
  - IDA absent *n* = 48

Normal result *n* = 74
- Non therapeutic test *n* = 03
- Therapeutic test *n* = 71
  - IDA present *n* = 17
  - IDA absent *n* = 54

Serum ferritin

* n = 144

Abnormal result *n* = 38
- Non therapeutic test *n* = 01
- Therapeutic test *n* = 37
  - IDA present *n* = 12
  - IDA absent *n* = 25

Normal result *n* = 99
- Non therapeutic test *n* = 04
- Therapeutic test *n* = 95
  - IDA present *n* = 23
  - IDA absent *n* = 72

Not performed *n* = 07
- Therapeutic test *n* = 95

Flow diagram - inclusions, losses and failures to undergo index-tests (haemoglobin and serum ferritin) and reference standard test (therapeutic test with oral iron) for iron deficiency anaemia (IDA), among 144 pregnant women recruited and followed between August 2011 and December 2012.