

# Ensuring Informed Choices: Navigating Ethical Considerations in NIPT



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## What is non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT)?

A newly developed technology called **NIPT** makes it possible to examine the fetus **without invasive** interventions that can harm the fetus. This test analyzes cell-free fetal DNA circulating in the mother's bloodstream. By examining this DNA, NIPT can provide information about the **risk** of various **genetic conditions**.

NIPT

Down syndrome  
(trisomy 21)

Edward syndrome  
(trisomy 18)

Patau syndrome  
(trisomy 13)



### Pros: Offering choices

- Early information about the health of the fetus
- Early decision making about pregnancy



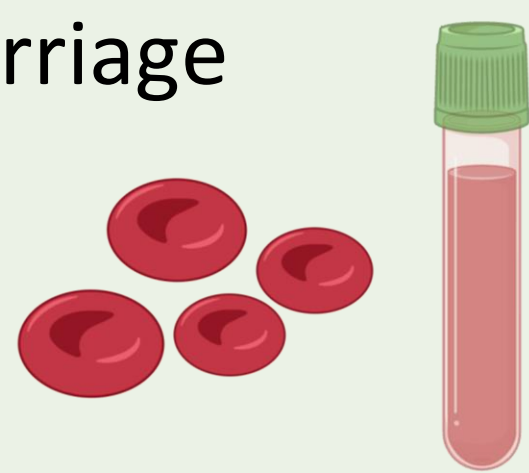
### Cons: Selective abortion

- Selective abortion based on results
- Stigmatization of genetic conditions
- Ethical considerations



### Pros: Non-invasive

- Decrease the risk of miscarriage
- Highly accurate



### Cons: Informed consent

- Psychological impact on expectant parents
- Decision making

## Ethical questions

- Tests taken abroad might send data to foreign countries – should we thus extend the biotechnology act for fetal diagnostics?
- What are the potential long-term psychological, social, and ethical implications for parents, children, and society?



### References

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